



Stewardship Guide

WEEK 3

October 20, 2024

Join us on...

COMMITMENT SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

One worship service at 10am, followed by a potluck luncheon

Dear St. John's Church Family,

Sunday, October 27 is Commitment Sunday, the culmination of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, "Our Mission & Money Story." We will gather for one combined **worship service that morning at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Potluck luncheon**. I hope you will join us that morning as we offer our financial commitments as an act of worship followed by a time of fellowship and celebration. *Make a pledge and a potluck dish on Commitment Sunday!*

We will have printed pledge cards available in worship and there are a number of ways to pledge prior to Commitment Sunday, which are outlined below. Your financial support means more *now* than ever before, as together we work to keep our church's welcoming spirit, faithful outreach, and sense of community alive and thriving in the year to come.

I know that given the financial realities of our world right now, some of you may not be in a position to give as you would like. Know that we care, and if there is any way we can be of support to you - by praying for you, talking with you, or providing other assistance - please contact me at the church office (225) 766-4594.

For all that we've already accomplished together and for all that we will accomplish together in the future, thank God and thank YOU. See you soon - and until then, may we remember God's loving and liberating work. May we release that which binds us. May we reimagine this world to see what God sees, and may we be restored to love of God and neighbor.

With gratitude,

Pastor Lane

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn,
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

WAYS TO PLEDGE

1. Complete your 2025 pledge card and bring it with you to **worship** on Commitment Sunday, October 27.
2. Submit your pledge **online** anytime at stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2025
3. Scan this **QR Code** to pledge online:
4. Return your completed pledge card by **mail** to:

St. John's UMC, 230 Renee Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810



ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  STEWARDSHIP 2025

 225-766-4594  230 Renee Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810  stjohnsbr.org/stewardship

Did you Know?

- 105 households pledged a total of \$512,832 for 2024
- If all 105 households increase their pledge by \$9 more each week, we can fully fund our 2025 aspirational budget
- Pledges = 80% of our 2024 budget
- Every pledge is important
- Pledged revenue is needed more than ever in 2025



REMEMBER

RELEASE

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship can be confusing. It's sometimes mistaken for fundraising, but stewardship is not just about the church budget, it's about recognizing God's work and blessings in our lives and responding to God with gratitude.

Stewardship is the prayerful work of managing our time, talent, and treasure to bring about God's kingdom on earth. At St. John's, we believe that stewardship is a part of our spiritual journey and our relationship with God.

REIMAGINE

RESTORE



WHY DO I NEED TO RETURN A PLEDGE CARD?

Pledges allow us to plan for the year ahead. Your pledge is a vital tool to develop the operating budget and plan for outreach, education, and other important spiritual formation programs. It also fosters a sense of community and shared responsibility among everyone who calls St. John's "home."

WHO SHOULD MAKE A FINANCIAL PLEDGE?

Everyone. If you are participating in St. John's worship services in person or online, enjoying Bible studies or fellowship groups, or are being fed by our ministries in some way, we encourage you to pledge. Pledging is an important spiritual exercise that allows you to reflect on God's blessings in your life and to express your gratitude for those gifts by giving back to the church.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE WITH AN ANNUAL PLEDGE?

We believe strongly that our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. Consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on your financial situation. A tithe (10% of your income) has long been held as the standard of Christian giving. For most, it is a goal to be reached through incremental increases each year. At St. John's, every pledge and every gift, no matter what amount, makes a valued contribution to our mission and ministry.

WHAT IF UNEXPECTED HARDSHIPS AFFECT MY COMMITMENT?

Your acceptance at St. John's is not based on your capacity to give and we know that individual money stories can change at any time. Please return a Pledge Card even if it is a limited financial commitment at this time. You can always increase or decrease your commitment if your situation changes.

STEWARDSHIP GIVING GUIDE: How much should I give?



Making a pledge brings intentionality to our giving and develops the discipline of generosity as a priority in our lives. Through our giving, we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God.

Use the chart to help guide your thoughts and prayers as you discern your pledge for 2025

To calculate your pledge, find your income on the left, and read across to the percentage of income you feel called to give. Consider growing your giving by at least 1% toward the eventual goal of a Biblical tithe (10%).

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	10%		7%		5%		3%	
			Annual	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual	Weekly
\$10,000	\$833	\$192	\$1,000	\$19	\$700	\$13	\$500	\$10	\$300	\$6
15,000	1,250	288	1,500	29	1,050	20	750	14	450	9
20,000	1,667	385	2,000	38	1,400	27	1,000	19	600	12
25,000	2,083	481	2,500	48	1,750	34	1,250	24	750	14
30,000	2,500	577	3,000	58	2,100	40	1,500	29	900	17
40,000	3,333	769	4,000	77	2,800	54	2,000	38	1,200	23
50,000	4,167	962	5,000	96	3,500	67	2,500	48	1,500	29
60,000	5,000	1,154	6,000	115	4,200	81	3,000	58	1,800	35
70,000	5,833	1,346	7,000	135	4,900	94	3,500	67	2,100	40
80,000	6,667	1,538	8,000	154	5,600	108	4,000	77	2,400	46
90,000	7,500	1,731	9,000	173	6,300	121	4,500	87	2,700	52
100,000	8,333	1,923	10,000	192	7,000	135	5,000	96	3,000	58

WAYS TO GIVE

How might you financially support our church?

ONLINE

Visit stjohnsbr.org/give to make a one time donation or to set up recurring gifts. We accept all major credit cards as well as Electronic Funds Transfer. ETF is the easiest, most cost-effective option for both you and the church, as donations withdrawn from your bank do not incur merchant fees. Contact LeAnn Davis, Manager of Finance and Facilities for more information (leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org; 225-766-4594).

BEQUESTS

Making a gift in your will allows you to make a legacy gift at the time you can most afford to give and can save your estate significant taxes. Visit stjohnsbr.org/legacy for more information.

STOCKS, BONDS, SECURITIES

We accept stocks, bonds, securities, IRA charitable rollovers and required minimum distributions. Securities are a great way to maximize your giving due to the immediate income tax deduction and there is no capital gains tax. Talk to your financial advisor to set this up.

CHECK

Make your check out to St. John's UMC.

CASH

To have your gift added to your giving statement, place your cash in an envelope with your name clearly written.



WEEK THREE

October 20, 2024



REIMAGINE

Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:8-12, Deuteronomy 15:1-11

SCRIPTURE INVITES US TO REIMAGINE OUR MONEY STORY TO ALIGN WITH GOD'S STORY OF GRACE AND ABUNDANCE FOR ALL.

Often, to speak of money is to invite tension into the room. We'd rather not talk about it. But money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer combined. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. Here are some questions to help you dive into/reflect on your own story and how it fits into God's broader narrative.

Take a look at the words below and sort them into the columns where they belong:

profit justice competition grace
consumption needs service pride
hope lack compassion abundance
fear faith love power
status choice



OUR ECONOMY

GOD'S ECONOMY



Now look at the lists in both columns.

- What is in opposition with your own money story and what could come into alignment?

To find alignment with God's story, let's begin by considering new possibilities or opportunities:

- How can your financial practices (giving, receiving, budgeting, and/or investing) be reimaged?
- What specific practices that might help you reimagine your financial practices.
- What is your hope/intention around your financial practices and investment in our congregation?

FOR ONLINE ONLY:

**[Click here](#) to be directed to an
online tool to help you calculate
your estimate of giving.**