**Tithing Guidelines**

Tithing is the spiritual and financial discipline of giving a regular commitment of money to the church as an act of thanksgiving to God and to support the local church’s operations and mission. The Biblical tithe is one-tenth of one’s income. Ask God for wisdom and a generous heart as you start a new practice of demonstrating your faith through tithing. As you pray, reflect on these Bible verses:

“*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats with bring over with new wine.*”
Proverbs 3:9-10

“*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*”
2 Corinthians 9:7

**Benefits of Tithing**

Tithing is more than a financial transaction; it’s a spiritual discipline. Regardless of where you are on your giving journey, prayerfully explore your current giving and what God might be inviting you to do next. The act of tithing will help you:

* Establish and maintain strong financial discipline; tithing helps us be thoughtful in our personal finances
* Strengthen community bonds: tithing is a collective endeavor that encourages collaboration and empathy
* Enhance your emotional and spiritual well-being: tithing is an act of faith that fosters a generous spirit

**Stepping Up to the Tithe**

If you cannot yet commit to pledging one-tenth of your income, identify how you can work toward the tithe from where you are, focusing on giving as an act of worship, not one of guilt. Evaluate where you are in terms of your percent of income giving right now and then challenge yourself spiritually and financially to work toward increasing that percentage over time until you reach a full tithe. The percentage and the timing are between you and God. Budget your tithe into your expenses. Try prioritizing your tithe before paying other bills and expenses.

Remember, God loves you and the church community welcomes you even if you cannot tithe. Make the choice that’s best for you. Understand that your prayers, presence, service, and witness of God’s love are valuable contributions to the life of the church, too.