

# DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

I hope you are finding our current “Defying Gravity” Stewardship Series to be thoughtful and a source of encouragement as you continue to grow in your understanding of what it means to live a more generous life. Together, we desire to understand why generosity brings people joy and what forces work against it. Many of us want to experience the significance of blessing others but feel trapped by past decisions and misled by a society that bombards us with messages of having more and having better. Thankfully, the Good News is that Jesus and the Bible offer us ways to “defy gravity,” break free from the culture of more, and consider our relationship with money, possessions, and giving from a spiritual perspective.

## COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 25th, we ask that each of you who call this church your home return a **Pledge Card** for the coming year in any of our three worship services. Here is what I have discovered: *generosity does not happen by accident*. It requires planning. It has to be a goal. It has to fit into a budget. The **Pledge Card** is a starting point in that process. It will allow you to spend time in prayer and conversation about your income and the ways you spend and save money.

### *Please consider these steps as a spiritual practice:*

1. Take a look at your current giving and determine the percentage of your total income that you are offering to God (either pre-tax or after-tax income, it is up to you).
2. Then, I and the Stewardship Committee invite you to consider raising that amount by at least 1 percent. Or use the enclosed **“Take a Leap Chart”** to help you determine a possible “next step.” Most people reach their goal of the biblical tithe, 10 percent of their income, through an incremental, planned, multi-year long journey.
3. Fill out the **Pledge Card** to help our church plan for its mission and ministry for the coming year. We attempt to be excellent stewards of God’s resources, and knowing what goals for giving members have set for the coming year is an important piece of information.
4. And last, please consider giving your weekly or monthly pledge online. The consistency and reliability of an automatic payment immensely helps with the day in and day out functions of church work and takes the pressure off of you to remember a check book. To set this up, visit [colliervilleumc.org/giving](http://colliervilleumc.org/giving).

Between now and September 25th please diligently 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. Bring your **Pledge Card** with you to worship on Sunday, September 25th. You can also submit it online at [colliervilleumc.org/pledge](http://colliervilleumc.org/pledge).

Again, thank you for all you do to support God’s work here at Collierville United Methodist Church. I am grateful for the ways you are already living a generous life within our own church and beyond. Together we truly are “reaching out to transform lives by extending God’s love to all!”

## HOPE & PEACE!



**DR. DEBORAH C. SUDDARTH**  
**SENIOR PASTOR**

*“Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others. When they do these things, they will save a treasure for themselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way they can take hold of what is truly life.”*

~ 1 Timothy 6:18-19

