

Tithes and Offerings

We are at the beginning of a new year, and it is a great time to establish new habits and practices. One of the practices of many folks at MCN is the practice of tithing. If you aren't familiar with the concept of tithing, you will discover that it is described in the Old Testament as God's plan for providing for the upkeep and maintenance of temple worship and for the support of the priesthood. (Start with Malachi 3:10.) There is another biblical concept woven into our understanding of tithing. In ancient days, the Ark of the Covenant was always carried by those designated by God – borne by human hands, if you will. There is a symbolism here that says, when the Kingdom of God comes, it is borne by us. Certainly, the Kingdom only comes by the movement of God's Spirit. But we are always the bearers, by the word of our testimony, by the fruit of our labor, by the light of our example, by the work of our hands.

In modern times, we honor the biblical principles of tithing and bearing by giving 10% of our income to the support of the church. Many of us also give an additional 1% to the mission of spreading the gospel around the world through missions. On top of that, some give to compassionate ministries and other charitable causes because we feel led by the Spirit of Christ to do so, to be generous and to demonstrate both gratitude for what we have received and humble stewardship of our resources.

Giving at MCN can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Roger Carlson, our recording secretary, has tithing envelopes available which allow people to give to the church anonymously, using a number identification system. (Request envelopes by email: rogercarlson@netzero.net.) In addition to placing contributions in the offering plate week by week, tithes may be sent by mail or given online.

The new Church app, available both in the App store for both iPhones or Android phones, makes giving easy. You can set up recurring donations or make one time donations. This is especially convenient during the summer months when you may be away from home, or when you might be unable to get to the worship services.

Regardless of how you give, the act of giving is a primary Spiritual Discipline. Giving helps us develop generosity of spirit, keeps us relying on the Father, and shapes our Kingdom priorities. Giving forces us to consider the needs of others in real time, as we trust God to provide all that we need. God knew that in order for us to develop properly, we needed to give. In order to value the Kingdom appropriately, we need to be bearers of the Kingdom. Embrace the discipline of tithing and giving as an act of worship. It will change your life!

Activity Highlights

Christmas Un-decorating . . . and FREE PIZZA—TODAY

We will be taking the Christmas decorations down after the morning worship service today. A light lunch (pizza, salad, fruit) will be provided for those who can help.

General Superintendent Jerry Porter Here This Week!!!

Jerry Porter will be here Friday night and Saturday night, as well as Sunday morning.

Don't miss this very special opportunity. Usually our speakers come during the season of Lent, but Jerry was not available during that time. Dr. Porter is an outstanding preacher who will be combining the themes of mission and Christian living in our setting.

Friday and Saturday, there will be light meals from 5:30 to 6:15 PM and afterwards on Saturday, we will have desserts. Sunday, the service is at 10:45 AM as usual.

It has been several decades since we had a General Superintendent visit us, and we are incredibly excited to have Dr. Porter join us. Bring your family and join us. RSVP for the meals. Bring a dessert Saturday.

Sign up today for

STEP STUDIES

(Men's and Women's)

Beginning January 16

Tuesday Nights, 6:30—8:30 PM

McLain Building

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness? To be free from the chains of a painful past, dysfunctional hang-ups, habits, guilt or shame? Stuff that clouds your relationship with God and with others? Are you ready for change? Our Higher Power, Jesus Christ, has the power to change you. Working the 12 Steps in a Celebrate Recovery Step Study is an opportunity to change your life. ***Additional information and anonymous sign-up in the lobby, or call Dave at (860) 423-8251.***

Announcements

Snow Removal Team Volunteers Needed

Are you able to help us remove snow this winter? Please volunteer to Garry Light with available times / days according to your schedule. Of course, I am praying for a white Christmas and very little other snow, but you never know what will come.

Enable Push Notifications

In order to get the latest information, weather closings, and urgent prayer requests, go to the "settings tab" of the new church app and enable push notifications. If you need help, let us know.

Please see back page for additional announcements.

Weekly Meetings

Wednesday Night Prayer

In place of a traditional Bible study, we will give Wednesday nights to prayer this winter. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for prayer at 7:00 PM each Wednesday.

Celebrate Recovery Thursday Night!

Stop struggling alone! Come find a safe place. Experience the healing love of Jesus! Lower Level, McLain Building (Sterling Place entrance).

6:30 PM Food and Fellowship

7:00 PM **Testimony Meeting—Guest!**

7:45 PM Cross Talk Café—Coffee & Snacks

8:00 PM Open Share Groups

More information in the lobby.

Mission Corner

It is official—we are going to Puerto Rico the second week of April! And, all of you can join us—join us by praying, join us by supporting us financially, and join us by actually choosing to go. I believe a Work and Witness trip is only as effective as the sending church body. We do not go on our own and the group "on the ground" in Puerto Rico are not the only called ones. Each part of the body is among the called. You will start to see reminders all around over the next few weeks inviting you to be involved. Don't ignore the invitation—this one comes from our Lord and Savior. The next invitation is for any and all to attend the informational meeting scheduled for Friday, January 19 after the evening service with Dr. Porter. This meeting is NOT just for those who will commit to going on the trip—it is for anyone willing to invest in this trip at any level of involvement. Please seek out God's direction for you and your family and then follow His leading. See you January 19!