A stylized, dark blue leaf pattern is visible on the left side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom. The leaves are outlined and some have small dots on them, resembling a botanical illustration. The background is a solid dark blue color.

ACWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Be Renewed Toolbox

Practical Ideas for Living & Giving Generously

Nearly every day, you and I make financial decisions. Some are small – should I get a cup of coffee at McDonald's or splurge for the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks? Some are big – which house, which car, which college? Some concern the future – how much to spend on a home improvement, which retirement funds should you choose?

I think one of the most challenging money decisions we make is how much to give. Giving creates tension. We wonder, "If I give this away, how will the gap be filled? What if there is not enough to both give and live?"

Giving is a big deal. Nothing invites God into our lives like giving. Giving is a tangible way we declare our trust in and commitment to God. Giving often paves the way for God to show up in our lives in a powerful way.

Giving is not just a financial decision - it's a deeply spiritual decision. This has always been true.

Leaders at Acworth UMC put this generosity toolbox together to help you. My prayer is you will consider how God has blessed you and how God invites you to trust more because of the Be Renewed campaign. You'll find ideas that will help you pray and consider how God will have you participate. Our prayer is that you would experience the power of God in your life as you seek Him and His Kingdom first through generous giving and living.

Your grateful and renewed servant in Christ,
James
Pastor, Acworth UMC

A photograph of a human hand reaching upwards, palm facing slightly towards the viewer, against a light blue background. The hand is positioned on the left side of the page, with the fingers slightly spread. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the veins on the hand.

The most effective path to generosity is a spiritual path where you set your heart on things above. Then, your financial priorities will naturally flow out of your spiritual priorities.

People often describe this as “living a generous lifestyle.” It is always a temptation to give to God in such a way that it makes little impact on how you live. The challenge of living a generous lifestyle is to intentionally and prayerfully find ways to do just that – to let your giving touch your living!

*King David declared,
“I will not give to God that which costs me nothing.”
(2 Samuel 24:24)*

He understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver.

A gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the life of the giver! This is the spirit of lifestyle generosity — “If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me.”

Lifestyle generosity is a level of giving that affects you – your plans, your activities, your attitude and your approach to life. It means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another.

During all services on February 7, our Acworth UMC family will have the opportunity to celebrate God's grace and generosity as we complete our Estimate of Giving cards to the Be Renewed campaign.

You will receive your card prior to Commitment Sunday to be completed and returned. Below is an example of the Estimate of Giving card.



Be Renewed

2021 Estimate of Giving

Please contact me/us with information about:

- Help with setting up online recurring gifts
- Making a gift of appreciated assets or from an IRA
- Giving through my/our Estate Planning *(will, insurance beneficiary, etc.)*

Acworth United Methodist Church 4340 Collins Circle
770-974-3312
www.acworthumc.org

MY / OUR COMMITMENT

I/We will trust in the Lord with all our heart. I/We will honor the Lord with my first fruits. I/We estimate giving to the Lord's work/ministry through our church next year as follows:

2021 Annual Estimate of Giving \$ _____

I/We plan to fulfill this commitment:

Weekly Quarterly
 Monthly Annually

Your information. Please print.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Signature _____

I understand this estimate of giving may be revised or canceled at any time at my request.



Following are creative ways to give that perhaps you haven't thought of before or may not be aware of.

1. PRIORITY BUDGETING

You may choose to rearrange your priorities and give up something in your current budget in order to grow in your giving. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, remodeling, or other major purchase.

2. APPRECIATED ASSETS

Many people own assets that have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the years. That is good news. The bad news is that if these assets were sold, a significant portion of the gain could be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets – typically investment securities or real estate – can be advantageous to both the giver and the church.

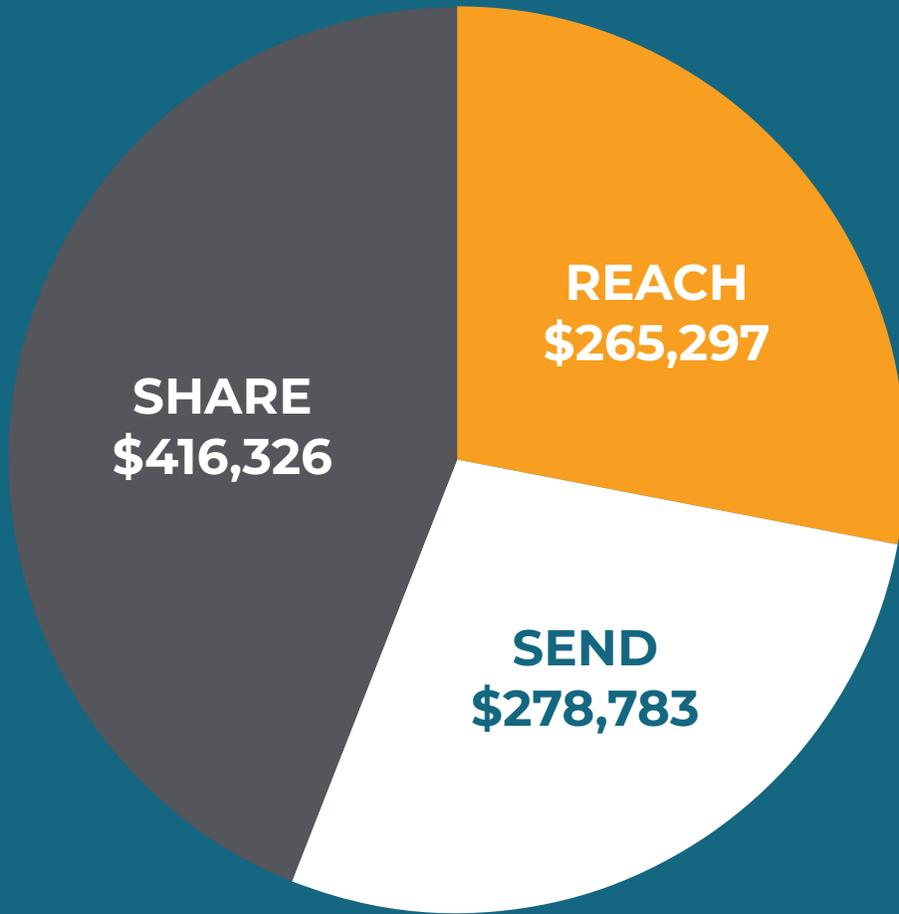
3. IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are 70.5 in age or older and have an IRA there are certain advantageous rules for you. Please contact your financial planner or accountant to learn more about how to give in this manner.

4. CARES ACT IMPACT ON GIVING

The CARES Act of 2020 in response to the Corona Virus includes a clause that radically impacts giving for individuals who itemize their personal tax returns. Please contact your financial planner or accountant to learn more about how to give in this manner.

Be
Renewed



BUDGET



SHARE (Connect & Grow)

Acworth UMC encourages faith growth by sharing God's life transforming love revealed in Col. 1:28 and Matt. 22:37-40. Worship, Groups & Classes, Music, Children and Student ministries.

SEND (Go)

Acworth UMC sends believers back out into the world to reach others and share the story of how Jesus saved them (Rom.10:13-15; Acts 1:8). Mission, Evangelism, Congregational Care.

REACH (Come)

Acworth UMC reaches out in love and service to our community and beyond, sharing the good news that saves lives (Luke 15 & Luke 19:10). Hospitality, Facilities, Preschool, Other community contact ministries.

PERSONAL PLAN FOR GENEROSITY

MONTHLY GIVING

ANNUAL INCOME	TITHE						
	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
\$20,000	\$33	\$67	\$100	\$133	\$167	\$200	\$250
\$30,000	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$375
\$40,000	\$67	\$133	\$200	\$267	\$333	\$400	\$500
\$50,000	\$83	\$167	\$250	\$333	\$417	\$500	\$625
\$60,000	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$650
\$70,000	\$117	\$233	\$350	\$467	\$583	\$700	\$875
\$80,000	\$133	\$267	\$400	\$583	\$667	\$800	\$1,000
\$90,000	\$150	\$300	\$450	\$600	\$750	\$900	\$1,125
\$100,000	\$167	\$333	\$500	\$667	\$833	\$1,000	\$1,250
\$125,000	\$208	\$417	\$625	\$833	\$1,042	\$1,250	\$1,563
\$150,000	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$1,875
\$175,000	\$292	\$583	\$875	\$1,167	\$1,458	\$1,750	\$2,288
\$200,000	\$333	\$667	\$1,000	\$1,333	\$1,667	\$2,000	\$2,500
\$250,000	\$417	\$833	\$1,250	\$1,667	\$2,083	\$2,500	\$3,125
\$300,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,750