

# WHY WE GIVE



## MY PERSONAL THEOLOGY OF GIVING

BY THE REV. JOHN WRIGHT, PASTOR, FUMC, AUSTIN, TX

When I give, I experience what Jesus calls “the abundant life.” When I don’t give, I die inside. Like Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, I must give to live! That’s the way God made me. I show my thanksgiving for the gift of life by thanks-giving.

I show I understand life as a gift by setting aside a significant portion of what is given to me directly for God’s work through the church, so others may come to know that life is a gift — grace!

I believe the biblical benchmark for the portion I give directly for God’s work is at least a tithe (10 percent of my income). Tithing shows I am serious about living life as a gift; otherwise, I’m all talk and no action. In order to give God a tithe, I must sacrifice spending money on other things. Tithing causes me to set priorities. Tithing is like a vaccine that keeps me from catching “affluenza.” Giving to God turns out to be God’s gift to me.

To learn more about how you can share God’s gifts through The United Methodist Church, go to [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org).

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