



Beacons of Hope



Burke UMC Stewardship Appeal 2025

This year, we have seen ministry take shape in so many exciting ways. Our building is being utilized by more groups, our outreach ministries continue to reach new families in our communities, we have offered new adult classes and expanded our Sunday School classes for the Fall, we have offered great opportunities for people to grow in community, and we continue to engage more people in our worship (both in person and online). This year, our Leadership Board created new mission, vision and value statements that express who we are and who we hope to be. These will help guide us in living into God's call for Burke Church in 2025. In order to do all that we believe God is calling us to, we need your help! We invite you to read the enclosed letter and consider the request we have made for you to step up your estimate of giving next year. If we all commit to this, we can meet the needs of the church (and maybe more)! You can go to burkeumc.org/stewardship to learn more. May we be in a discerning space as we move through this season together.



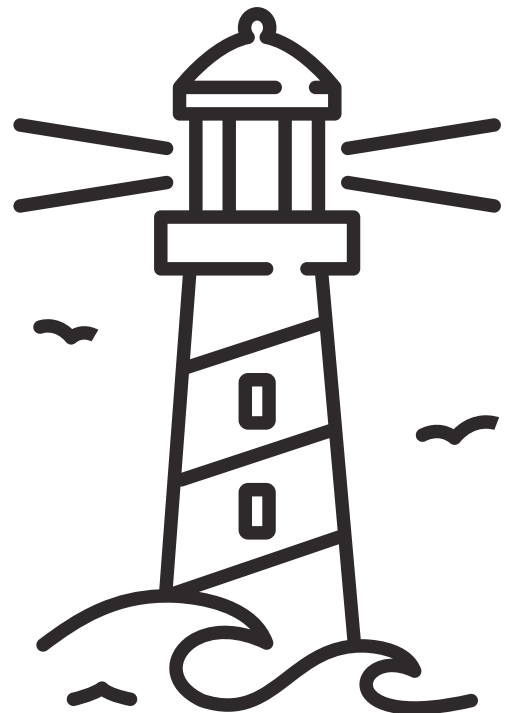
OUR NEEDS FOR 2025

As you consider your giving for 2025, we want to lift up the ways that your giving are important:

STAFF SUPPORT: We have a wonderful staff of gifted individuals who work so hard to facilitate the wonderful ministry that happens at Burke UMC. In order for us to try to support them as cost of living continues to grow and the building and ministries continue to expand, we need to increase the giving of the congregation. The staff salaries are a big part of our budget and the only monies we use for those salaries are given by the congregation.

CARE FOR THE BUILDING: Another big proponent of our budget is keeping up the church building. We have been fortunate to raise some monies for some renovations, but the general upkeep of the church, from custodial work to tree removal to HVAC and elevator work, comes out of your generous gifts. As the building is utilized more, it is even more important to keep it maintained and a place of welcome for all who gather in our church.

PROGRAM MINISTRIES: From Burke Gives Back to Guest Speakers to Fellowship Opportunities, our Care, Learn Share, and Worship Ministries are hallmarks of what it means to be a church full of disciples of Jesus Christ. Your gifts help us to fund vital program ministries that impact the lives of our congregation and our larger community.



OUR GOAL

As we look to 2025, our proposed budget totals close to 1.12 million. We hope to raise our giving by \$200,000. How do we expect to do that? Please read your individual letters and consider the amount we are asking (or more). If we do this, we calculated that we can make close to this mark of \$200,000, but it takes everyone doing it together so the burden does not fall on only a couple of people or we have to cut back on our ministries.

If you go to burkeumc.org/stewardship, we have multiple tools to help you discern your giving, from stories from members about why they give, a calculator to help you consider your percentage of giving, to our budget that illustrates what we spend to make Burke UMC ministry a reality. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated and we hope you will consider what giving may look like for your family and fill out your Estimate of Giving Card either online or hard copy by October 27th.

WAYS WE DISCERN GIVING

There are three important considerations we hope you will take into account as you discern your giving in 2025:

SPIRITUAL: Giving financially to further the work of Christ in the world is an important part of how we live out our faith in the world. When we are grounded in this faith, we want to live in ways that represent God's love and grace to all people. Because we believe the church is the Body of Christ in the world, then we give to the church as a way of living out that faith. We hope that part of our faith, if rooted in generosity, is considering what ways we are giving charitably as a way of recognizing the abundance we have from God.

Question to discern: What ways do I give as an aspect of my faith, considering my own blessings?

BIBLICAL: The Bible, in many places, talks about money, particularly about the blessing of giving. In the church, we think about our giving in relationship to tithing as it is a Biblical principle. Tithing is the idea that we use 10% of what we have as a measure of giving to God. You can consider your overall charitable giving with this metric or the portion you give to the church. On our website (burkeumc.org/stewardship) there is a tool to determine your annual household income and calculate what 10% would be or see what percentage you are currently giving.

Question to discern: How much do I currently give and what would it look like for my household to give 10% to the church or other charitable organization?

PRACTICAL: Many of us think about giving as meeting a need. Our church is looking at a 1.08 million dollar budget for next year, not counting some of the other projects we hope to accomplish. All of our funds come from congregation members. In order for us to continue supporting staff, maintaining our building, offering a variety of ministries, and the many other things we do, we need everyone to give in generous ways. We recognize that everyone's financial situation is different and we hope that you will consider what ways you are spending and think about priorities in your giving.

Question to discern: Where do we prioritize giving to the church in our overall giving and what ways would the church not meeting their budget affect our faith?

GROW IN FAITH THROUGH GENEROUS GIVING!

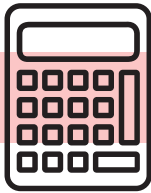
The biblical text invites us to give 10% as a way to honor God and practice generosity, as seen in Genesis, Leviticus, and Malachi, where we are encouraged to trust in God's provision and care for others. We created a simple worksheet for you to calculate what this would look like for your household!

Annual Income =

1.

Giving Amount for 2024=

2.



Do the Math!

$$\frac{\text{Amount \#2}}{\text{Amount \#1}} \div = \text{Current Giving Percentage}$$

$$\frac{\text{Amount \#1}}{10} \div = \text{Target Giving Percentage}$$

As people of faith, we are called to be generous and give back a portion of our gifts to God. We encourage you to pray about what percentage you are able to raise your estimate of giving for the 2025 year, or if you're ready to commit to the full 10%!

Visit our website for resources, more information, and to fill out your online Estimate of Giving Card!



burkeumc.org/stewardship

