

# OUR THEOLOGY OF GENEROSITY

*Floris United Methodist Church*



## What Do We Believe About Generosity?

At Floris UMC, generosity isn't just something we practice—it is an expression of who we are as followers of Christ. For 130 years, our church has flourished through a spirit of generosity that has sustained our ministries, our worship, and our life together. In this season, through our Lead With Love focus, generosity is the pathway to continue this legacy by faithfully supporting the ministry budget which undergirds the daily life of our church and enables our mission and vision to thrive.

Generosity flows from our faith, it is our response to God's goodness, our way of participating in the work of Christ, and our practice of shaping a church community centered on love, compassion, and hope. Everyone who calls Floris UMC home is invited to lead with love by embracing generous living as a holy expression of gratitude and trust.

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## What is Generosity?

### **Generosity is an Act of WORSHIP**

We believe generosity is a sacred response to God's abundant grace—a form of worship that lifts our hearts in thanksgiving. As John Wesley taught, all we have is from God, and giving is our way of saying, "Thank You." Through the Lead With Love campaign and every offering we make—whether time, skill, prayer, or financial resources—we honor the Giver of all good things and participate in God's unfolding work.

### **Generosity is a Path of DISCIPLESHIP in Faith**

Generosity shapes us. It forms our hearts, stretches our trust, and transforms us into disciples who rely on God rather than our own security. When we lead with love through generous commitments, we learn to step into a deeper faith—trusting that God provides, sustains, and multiplies what we offer.

### **Generosity is SERVING Others**

Living generously means putting love into action. It is offering ourselves in service to God and neighbor. At Floris UMC, this is seen in our hunger ministries, our care for the vulnerable, our support of families, our outreach to the community, and our work in the world. In Lead With Love, we serve through giving, knowing our generosity fuels the ministry that touches lives every day.

### **Generosity is SHARING Our Faith**

Generosity is a witness to Christ. When we lead with love, we show the world that we follow a Savior who gave everything for love of humanity. Our generosity becomes a declaration of hope, demonstrating that the Floris UMC is a place where love is lived, shared, and extended to all.

### **Generosity is GIVING Freely**

At the heart of generosity is freedom, the freedom to trust God rather than fear scarcity. In giving freely, we shift from owners to stewards of God's blessings. Through Lead With Love, we choose a life of open-handed abundance, offering our resources to support the everyday ministry of our church. In doing so, we participate in a community rooted in love, sustained by prayer, and strengthened by shared commitment.

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## **What's Next? Make a plan.**

Generous living is a journey of faith, one that calls for intentionality and commitment. As you consider your role in this journey, we encourage you to:

- Pray and ask for guidance in living and giving generously.
- Seek wisdom from trusted friends who can share their own stories of generosity.
- Commit to giving a percentage of your income to the mission of Floris UMC.
- Celebrate the joy of your generosity, knowing you are changing lives and glorifying the divine.

Let's walk this journey together, trusting that our gifts will be multiplied to make a profound difference in the world. Generosity is our privilege, our calling, and our joy. Let's lean into leading with love, together.

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## Key Generosity Terms

**Tithe** – A tithe is the biblical practice of giving one-tenth of one's income to support the work of the church and its ministries.

**Offerings** – Our offerings are our gifts given through the church to ministries and missions that transform the lives for the glory of God, that are beyond our tithes. As followers of Jesus, we freely and prayerfully offer these gifts as additional offerings. An example of an offering is our Christmas Eve Giving.

**Estimate of Giving (EOG)** – This is a heartfelt estimate to contribute a specific amount of money over a set period, usually one year. This estimate helps the church plan its ministry activities by providing a predictable stream of income. An Estimate of Giving can be adjusted as circumstances change, reflecting the giver's financial ability and spiritual commitment to supporting the church's mission and ministries.

**Annual Ministry Budget** – a plan that outlines our expected income and expenses for a year.

**Proportional Giving** – sharing a percentage of income as a grateful response to what God has given us and to help build the Kingdom of God by creating a more just, inclusive, loving, world.

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In Luke 12:48 Jesus shares “...to who much is given, much will be required.” This text illuminates a theme throughout the bible that we are responsible to steward the time, talents and (not or) financial resources in proportion to how we have been blessed by God's goodness.

### LEAD WITH LOVE GIVING PATH:

How our relationship with money guides us to lead with love in the world.

