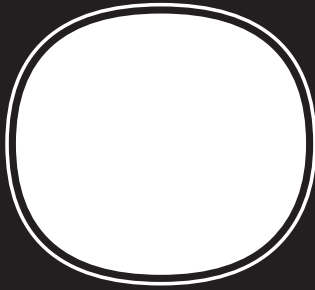
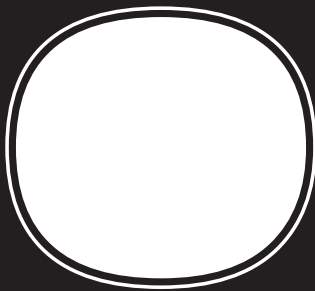


THE 2025 STEWARDSHIP SERIES



UND·I·V·I·DED



WALNUT CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

UNDIVIDED

The 2025 WCPC Stewardship Series

We often live fractured lives—rushing from one meeting to the next, one event to another. While partitions in life can be useful, there is an integrity, a wholeness to life that can be elusive. Partitions can lead us toward becoming one person in one place, a different person in another. We present one version of ourselves online, another at work, another in our neighborhoods, and yet another at church. Our thoughts, feelings, and very lives become divided. Yet, living an undivided life and being a person of integrity is possible! It takes work. It doesn't come quickly or easily. But it can happen!

Each fall, WCPC embarks on a Stewardship Series, reminding us that we own nothing but steward everything. In God's economy, nothing is earned—everything is gifted. With this perspective, our minds, bodies, and souls—along with our time, talents, and treasures—are not used to serve and promote ourselves but to glorify God and serve others.

A stewarded life can grow into an undivided life—one rooted in the contentment that all we have and all we are is a gift from God.

Such a life promotes wholeness, allowing us to be fully who we are, no matter where we are. This sort of integrity will shape our soul, our friendships and families, our marriages and relationships. It will inform how we approach vocation and career, income and wealth, possessions and leisure, and how we think about life's second half and retirement.

Our stewardship series will take us to the Book of Proverbs, a book that teaches us that wisdom for living well begins with an undivided devotion to God. And it is this devotion that leads us into an undivided life. We will spend eight weeks exploring a healthy relationship to the many components of everyday life—our friendships, vocations, possessions, and more. Together, we will mine the ancient wisdom of Proverbs, seeking to cultivate a life that is undivided—and whole.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings, many of which are attributed to King Solomon. These proverbs were passed down as oral tradition before they were written down and edited sometime after 700 BC and completed before 400 BC.

Typically, in Ancient Near Eastern Wisdom Literature, the recipient of the writings is a favored son mentioned by name. However, in this case, The Proverbs were intended for the entire nation of Israel, a community of faith. The Book of Proverbs was read in community; read aloud by parents, mentors, rabbis, and pastors in the contexts of synagogues and churches. After the collective reading, various Proverbs were then ruminated over and discussed in small group settings, around campfires, and at tables.

Proverbs are maxims. They are not promises, but true-isms. They describe how life usually works. They draw comparisons, similitudes, and likenesses to reality. They are often simple illustrations exposing fundamental realities about life. Pithy sayings that pack memorable truths. For example, “A stitch in time saves nine,” first recorded in Thomas Fuller’s Proverbs in 1732, essentially means: If something is wrong, repair it immediately lest the wrong worsens. This rings true with blue jeans and friendships.

It is also worth noting that no one proverb paints the entire picture of any given subject. In fact, some proverbs are intentional contradictions. For example, in Proverbs 26:4,5 we read two contradictory proverbs placed side-by-side: “Don’t answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.” Then, “Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will think he is wise in his own eyes.” Proverbs are designed to be turned over in the mind and heart over and over again. Coupling these two proverbs together, we may wisely discern that sometimes it is foolish to answer a fool because you will be the worse for it, and sometimes a fool will heed your correction and will be the better for it.

Mulling over the proverbs for weeks, months, or years at a time is like working a 10,000-piece jigsaw puzzle—slowly, parts of the whole become visible and clear, and the participant eventually and hopefully becomes wise.

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

¹ The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ² for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; ³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; ⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—
⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

—PROVERBS 1:1–7

The first six verses are essentially one run-on sentence, each phrase saying the same thing differently. This introduction is designed to cascade over the reader, creating the cumulative effect necessary for knowledge, discretion, instruction, and understanding to gradually make one wise.

The sentiment of verse seven shows up a couple of times in the Book of Proverbs. In Proverbs 9:10, the second line in the couplet shifts: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Astute students of Scripture and Life will recognize both our stunted capacity to know God and our stilted ability to pursue wisdom. These are the results of breaking away from the relationship with God we were designed to enjoy. Our quest for the exhaustive knowledge of God (“the knowledge of good and evil”), a knowledge we aren’t equipped to handle, left us disconnected from God and dissociated from wisdom. But the Proverbs, like every book in Scripture, paint a picture of God’s pursuit, a narrative of His reclamation project for humanity.

In fact, in Proverbs 8, wisdom, Sophia, is personified, perhaps even deified. We learn she was with God before creation, she was the master worker through whom God created all things, and the redeemer through whom God will restore all things. While the reference in Proverbs 8 is rudimentary and without tidy one-to-one coherence, Christians will recognize Sophia as a pre-figured Christ. Paul would later call Jesus “the wisdom of God,” (1 Corinthians 1:24), and Jesus himself would say, “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet, wisdom is justified by her deeds” (Matthew 11:19).

Jesus invites a bunch of rascals like us to once again “fear the LORD” (1:7; 9:10) by obtaining knowledge (and this word in Hebrew means “intimate, personal knowledge”) of the Holy One, and this intimate knowing only happens through the redemptive deeds of Christ, God incarnate. Knowing God through Jesus invokes a fear that is best described as a jaw-dropping, spine-shivering, knee-knocking awe and reverence. This fear replaces a shaking-in-your-boots, guilt-induced, shame-based fear that causes you to question if you’ve ever done enough to receive God’s forgiveness and grace. You haven’t! You won’t! But Jesus makes a way!

As we consider the “fear of the Lord,” it might be worth pausing here and asking one of life’s most pressing questions: Of what am I afraid? Pain? Insecurity? Death? Of not getting what I want? Of losing what I have? Sickness? The death of a close friend, parent, or child? Do these fears cause dread, paralysis, anxiety, depression? One of the rhythms a Christian should cultivate is the meditative practice of allowing your biggest fears to be melted by and then replaced with the fear of the LORD! The amazement and wonder found in the fear of the LORD elicit kneeling before a King who has all of the power, who has fashioned you in the womb, and who holds your destiny in His hands.

SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON WISDOM

Often when defining something, it is best to start with what that something is not.

Firstly, wisdom is not moral rectitude. Most situations you face are not covered by the “facts”; or the “rules” of “right and wrong.” In decision-making, if five doors of possibility open, four of them might be morally permissible. Wisdom does not merely mean choosing between what is moral and immoral.

Secondly, wisdom is not merely knowledge acquisition. Wisdom does not often involve the falsification and verification of scientific experimentation. Wisdom does not mean having a high IQ or a PhD, or tapping into the exhaustive and exhausting knowledge AI grants us. Achieving and succeeding do not make one wise. Being an executive, an entrepreneur, or a beauty queen does not make one wise. We know this intuitively because every day we watch the lives of people who are smarter, more successful, and more beautiful than we are, unravel.

Instead, wisdom is more desirable than silver or gold because wisdom is “the knack for living life with grace, beauty, and skill” (the definition given by my mentor and Wisdom Literature scholar, Dr. Bruce Waltke). Some decisions might require moral goodness and other decisions might require knowledge, but every meaningful and substantial decision requires moral rectitude, knowledge acquisition, and the experience and skill of living life well: Should I get married? To whom? Should I confront this person? Or hold back? Should I take the risk? Or play it safe? Wisdom, as a professor friend of mine tells her students, “is not living to learn, but learning to live.”



THE BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO RESOURCE

For a clear and engaging overview of Proverbs and its place within the Bible’s wisdom books, check out The Bible Project’s short introduction video by scanning the QR Code.

WHOLE IN HEART AND SOUL

– OCTOBER 5 –

FOCUS: Stewarding the interior life, spiritual well-being, with attention given to the condition of our hearts and souls.

PROVERBS:

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

–PROVERBS 4:23

"Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path."

–PROVERBS 23:19

"A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit."

–PROVERBS 15:13

"The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper."

–PROVERBS 19:8

"Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."

–PROVERBS 23:17,18

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives."

–PROVERBS 11:30

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."

–PROVERBS 4:7

WHOLE +N FR+ENDSH+PS AND FAM+LY

– OCTOBER 12 –

FOCUS: Stewarding healthy relationships, aware of the important role friends and family play in our lives.

PROVERBS:

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck."

–PROVERBS 1:8,9

"The Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in."

–PROVERBS 3:12

"Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge."

–PROVERBS 14:26

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

–PROVERBS 22:6

"The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down."

–PROVERBS 14:1

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

–PROVERBS 17:17

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

–PROVERBS 27:27

"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

–PROVERBS 18:24

"Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."

–PROVERBS 27:6

"Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice."

–PROVERBS 27:9

"Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue."

–PROVERBS 28:23

WHOLE IN RELATIONSHIPS AND MARRIAGES

– OCTOBER 19 –

FOCUS: Stewarding healthy relationships, aware of the important role relationships and marriages play in our lives and in culture and society.

PROVERBS:

“He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.”

–PROVERBS 18:22

“A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.” -

PROVERBS 31:10–12

“Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.”

–PROVERBS 19:14

“A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.”

–PROVERBS 12:4

“A quarrelsome wife is like the dripping of a leaky roof in a rainstorm; restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand.”

–PROVERBS 27:15,16

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.”

–PROVERBS 24:3,4

The Proverbs were written to sons in a paternal and patriarchal society and manner. The Proverbs are appropriate as is, but we will necessarily make appropriate adumbrations in our preaching—applying them to men and women, sons and daughters, etc.

WHOLE-~~IN~~ VOCATION AND CAREER

– OCTOBER 26 –

FOCUS: Stewarding our calling and career.

PROVERBS:

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

–PROVERBS 16:3

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

–PROVERBS 16:9

"Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will stand before kings; they will not stand before obscure men."

–PROVERBS 22:29

"Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."

–PROVERBS 12:11

"Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty."

–PROVERBS 28:19

"The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is fully satisfied."

–PROVERBS 13:4

"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."

–PROVERBS 14:23

"One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys."

–PROVERBS 18:9

"Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house."

–PROVERBS 24:27

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

–PROVERBS 3:5,6

SCATTER TOOL

God has uniquely designed each person with skills, abilities, and callings. In the New Testament, Peter describes the Church as a body of “royal priests,” showing that God sees every believer as a minister—sent into daily places of work and service for His glory.

Tomorrow, you will step into your workplace—whether that’s paid or unpaid. As a church, we want to understand the work you do Monday through Saturday and to help you see it as God does: valuable, beautiful, and good.

That’s why, in conjunction with this week’s topic, we’re launching *Scatter*, a new survey. This five minute survey highlights where you spend your time, what skills you use, and how faith connects to daily work. And when the word “work” is used, it means all of it—employment, retirement, volunteering, caregiving, homemaking, parenting, studying, or even seeking work. God values every contribution, measuring success not by compensation but by faithfulness.

Daily work matters deeply to God. The Scatter survey includes 25 questions designed to better understand how to serve, equip, and encourage. It also provides space for honest feedback about how the church can support you.

Completing the survey doesn’t commit you to anything—it simply provides insight into the heartbeat of the church. Once finished, you’ll receive a snapshot showing how your industry contributes to God’s plan for flourishing communities, along with suggested resources for further reflection.

By filling this out, you are helping affirm and strengthen your calling in the places God has set you.



TAKE THE 5-MINUTE SCATTER SURVEY

Scan the QR Code or visit scatter.us/wcpc

WHOLE ·N ·NCOME AND WEALTH

– NOVEMBER 2 –

FOCUS: Stewarding income and wealth away from greed and toward generosity.

PROVERBS:

“Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.”

–PROVERBS 23:4,5

“Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.”

–PROVERBS 13:11

“Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.”

–PROVERBS 11:28

“The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings ruin.”

–PROVERBS 15:6

“The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”

–PROVERBS 21:5

“Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and whoever gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty.”

–PROVERBS 22:16

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

–PROVERBS 3:9,10

“Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.”

–PROVERBS 11:4

WHOLE -IN POSSESSIONS AND STUFF

– NOVEMBER 9 –

FOCUS: Stewarding possessions and stuff away from accumulation and toward hospitality.

PROVERBS:

"Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil."

–PROVERBS 15:16

"Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."

–PROVERBS 30:8,9

"Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred."

–PROVERBS 15:17

"How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!"

–PROVERBS 16:16

"Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife."

–PROVERBS 17:1

"The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale."

–PROVERBS 18:11

"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

–PROVERBS 22:1

WHOLE IN PLAY AND LEISURE

– NOVEMBER 16 –

FOCUS: Stewarding play and leisure in a manner that brings pleasure, rest, connection, and community.

PROVERBS:

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

–PROVERBS 17:22

"A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit."

–PROVERBS 15:13

"The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied."

–PROVERBS 13:4

"The human spirit can endure in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?"

–PROVERBS 18:14

"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man."

–PROVERBS 24:33,34

"If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit."

–PROVERBS 25:16

WHOLE IN SECOND HALF AND RETIREMENT

– NOVEMBER 23 –

FOCUS: Stewarding the second half of life and retirement in a way that brings blessing to yourself and flourishing to others.

PROVERBS:

"Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field. You will have plenty of goat's milk to feed your family and to nourish your female servants."

–PROVERBS 27:23–27

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day."

–PROVERBS 4:18

"An inheritance claimed too soon will not be blessed at the end."

–PROVERBS 20:21

"For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life."

–PROVERBS 9:11

"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."

–PROVERBS 14:23

"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."

–PROVERBS 17:6

"The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old."

–PROVERBS 20:29

"Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness."

–PROVERBS 16:31

"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

–PROVERBS 24:3,4

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

–PROVERBS 31:25

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old."

–PROVERBS 23:22

HOW DO I BECOME GENEROUS?

Here are some suggestions:

START EARLY: Generosity does not begin when you are moving up the ladder in your late 30s. It begins in college or when you take your first job at hardly minimum wage. This practice will allow you to build a habit that will last a lifetime. Being generous with your giving at an early age will also train you not to live up to the very limits of what you have. To live over your means is to get in “debt to debt.” To live within your means is to be prudent. But to live well within your means is to create space for generosity. It is actually easier to give when you have less to give. If you were to take the tithe, the giving of 10% mentioned below, as an example: It is much easier to give \$10 of \$100 than \$100 of \$1000 than \$10,000 of \$100,000 than \$100,000 of \$1,000,000 because there is a lot more you can do, buy, or be with \$10,000 than with \$10!

START YOUR KIDS EARLY: As a parent of three daughters, my most consistent hope and prayer for each one is that they would know the grace of God, would respond in gratitude, and would lead generous lives. When they were growing up, our daughters had three jars ordered and labeled in this way: Give, Save, and Spend. The first part of every dollar went into the “Give” jar. And this leads me to my next piece of practical advice...

GIVE FIRST: If you were hosting a celebrity or dignitary in your own home for dinner, I would imagine you would not rifle through the fridge to find the leftovers stacked in the back--yesterday's roast beef or last week's cottage cheese. Instead, you would give of your best and first fruits--you would plan the menu weeks in advance, and shop at the “fancy” grocery store. God wants your first and your best, not your last and leftover. Consider making your generous giving the first check you write or the first autopay draft after you receive your paycheck. Cultivate the practice of over-giving rather than over-spending or over-saving.

CONSIDER 10%: Some biblical interpretations endeavor to erase the “first-fruits giving of 10%,” called the tithe. These teachings view the tithe as “old school”—under the law of the Old Testament rather than the grace of the New. And yet, the plain and simple reading of most texts (e.g. start with Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount) might suggest that the giving of 10% is actually “the floor and not the ceiling” (Tim Keller) of generosity, the “training wheels” (Randy Alcorn) of generosity. Here is a suggestion if you have never tithed: Make the tithe a five to ten-year goal and see what happens. You might find yourself one day stretching well beyond the tithe!

START SOMEWHERE: It might be a mistake on your part and unloving on my part if I suggest you start with the tithe. You might have a lot to sort out concerning your finances, so don’t be paralyzed by what might feel like a large number, an “unattainable impossibility.” Instead, start somewhere! Give 2% this year, and try to give 3 or 4% the next.

TELL STORIES: If you are a “seasoned veteran” in our church, please tell us your stories of generosity! People in their 40s, 30s, 20s, and teens need to hear that God provided for you and cared for you every step of the way. We need to be inspired by stories of sacrificial and joyful generosity. Tell us all about it. We want to listen!

BUT WHY SHOULD I GIVE TO THE LOCAL CHURCH?

The Church is God's ordinary means of doing extraordinary things!

Jesus built the church and pledged that even hell itself would not prevail against her (Matthew 16:18). Jesus loved the church so much that he gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25). And, the Apostle Paul was on a mission to change the world. Paul's world was more war-torn and impoverished than ours. There were fewer educational opportunities for all, poor sanitation in the cities, and injustice in the streets. And what did Paul do to address these ills? He planted churches all over the known world. Churches that offered baptism (re-creation), communion (restoration), teaching, pastoring, counseling, the formation of children and students, service and outreach both locally and globally, and the list goes on.

Further, the church is both sustainable (a 2000-year organizational history) and strategic (the premiere social network!), making her a worthy investment. Malcolm Gladwell once wrote that social networking online does not bring full revolution because the ties are too weak; instead, activism must involve "strong ties and real presence." Look no further than the church: The church builds social, relational, emotional, financial, and spiritual capital that cultivates deep and lasting impact generation after generation.

And, in case you are wondering, people who give to their local church are far more generous to other causes (see Robert Putnam's *American Grace*). Yes, you read that correctly. Christians who prioritize giving to their local church give more generously to many other noble causes. Why? Because generosity begets generosity. It's contagious.

WHY DO WE HAVE A “STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CAMPAIGN”?

Perhaps you’ve experienced a Capital Campaign in church—the church was raising funds to build a community center, to improve the sanctuary, or to expand the Fellowship Hall. You gave a gift in response to a particular vision or unique need. You also have undoubtedly participated in capital campaigns in schools and nonprofit organizations.

A Stewardship Pledge Campaign is not a Capital Campaign. Instead, a pledge campaign happens annually, shaping our church’s regular giving towards the general fund budget. Each November, we encourage each person who calls WCPC their home church to submit a giving pledge for the following calendar year (January through December). This pledge is a “pledge of intent”—what you intend to give for that next year. Sometimes unforeseen events or circumstances might cause you to give less, while at other times, they may allow you to give more. Only God knows the future!

Taking time to complete a pledge card is a faith commitment. It allows you as an individual, or as a couple, or as a family, to invest some intentional time, effort, and prayer in determining how much you can give. This exercise may put you on the journey of giving for the first time, or on the path toward giving more consistently, generously, sacrificially, and joyfully.

The pledge campaign not only helps you plan well, but helps our church plan well! We as a church must be both prudent and faithful in the building of a budget. An annual pledge campaign helps ensure we aren’t merely surviving year to year, but thriving—not clinching our fists while holding on for dear life, hoping that we “make budget,” but rather, open-handedly building our budget wisely. Our general fund budget is built to support our local congregation – as we care for the sick and hurting, support children and families, develop and encourage our students with the gospel, cultivate excellent and reverent Sunday worship, train our people in Christian formation, and equip for ministry as we love and serve our city and world. Generous support for local and global mission partners is also included in the General Fund.

This Pledge Campaign is also a moment for us to consider pledging, not only our Treasure, but also our Time and Talent. At WCPC, we believe that Christian Formation involves the mind, body, and soul—it includes our time, talent, and treasure. And we are reminded we are owners of nothing yet stewards of everything.

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN PRE-WORK CONSIDERATION

As you settle into this pledge pre-work, approach it like other financial considerations in your life. For example, if you are attempting to get out of debt, save for retirement, or buy a car or home, then you will likely sit down with your spouse (if applicable), a financial advisor, your bank, a friend who is good with money, or with parents and grandparents. They will offer perspective and help you set some goals. How odd many of us never bother doing this with our giving! But what if you were to sit down with your spouse, good friend, or community group leader, and discuss setting goals that will help you become a generous giver? Don't be afraid to try it!

STEP 1: Spend 10 minutes in prayer each day for a week over your pledge commitment (card provided).

STEP 2: Talk with your spouse (if applicable) about next year's pledge of intent. If you are not married, consider having this conversation with a trusted friend in your community group. Pray together.

STEP 3: On a scratch piece of paper, write down the amount you intend to give weekly, monthly, or annually for 2026.

STEP 4: Revisit the amount and ask God: Does this amount seem appropriate? Should I give a bit more? Or a bit less? Write down the final amount on the card.

STEP 5: Bring your card to church on any Sunday in November and place it in the blue offering box. Alternatively, go online at wcpc.church/pledge to pledge, drop it in the office mailbox on campus, or mail it to the church office.

Only the Stewardship Team, comprised of elders elected by the congregation, will know the nature of your pledge. These matters are treated carefully and with confidentiality.