

Abundance

THE OVERFLOW OF GOD'S BLESSINGS



CHRIST
CHURCH
FOX CHAPEL

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Our Abundant Response
for 2019
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What does abundance look like?

Created humans can only ever give from what the creator God first gave to them; no matter how abundant we seek to be, we can never match let alone exceed God. But, God does guide us to an appropriate symbolic response.

From the earliest chapters of the Old Testament onwards, God's people consistently responded to His blessings with a tithe of 10% of what He had given them. This was never meant to be abundant, just obedient.

In the U.S., the average rate of Christian giving is only 2.5%

The New Testament affirms this as a starting point or matter of continuing basic obedience but we often find levels of abundant generosity far beyond 10%, even in communities with little to give.

In the U.S., one of the most abundantly blessed countries in the world, the average rate of Christian giving is only somewhere around 2.5% of income and, with many caveats, we believe that the average in our own church is below even that.

Our overall level of church giving might indicate that something is very wrong here. But it might indicate instead that many are in the early stages of a new or revitalized journey of faith.

We have seen consistent growth in giving over the last few years and numerous other signs of spiritual growth across all four generations.

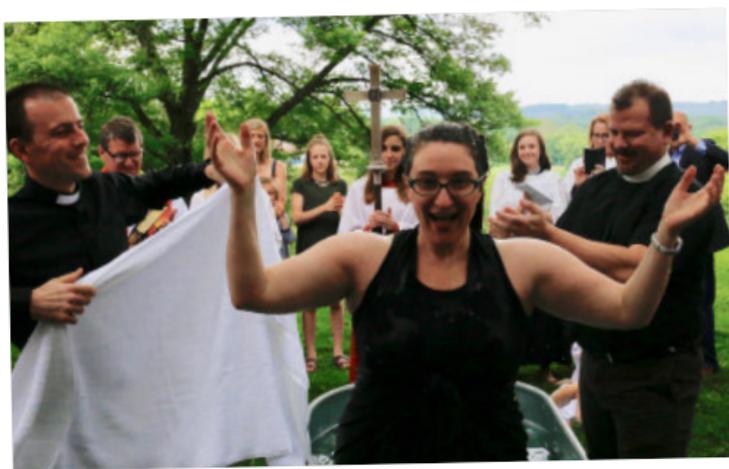
If you have seen afresh how abundant God's love is for you, and you are zealous for others to receive the same thing, perhaps this is the year to give the vestry the resources it needs to do abundantly even more.



Abundant Creation

We are made in the image of an abundant God, who abundantly gave us all of creation to enjoy.

Logically, the best place on Earth should be the church, where a people made like Him gather to re-focus on Him.



Abundant Redemption

Because we are made in the image of God, with both a yearning for fun and the freedom to have it, sadly, sometimes, we go astray.

Often the guilt that comes from getting it wrong pushes us further from God. But that which God abundantly created, he yet more abundantly redeemed through his Son whose life was lavishly given as a ransom price in exchange for our sin.

God's response to the abundance of our sin was an even greater abundance of His grace.



Left: Preparing to depart for the 2018 summer outreach trip

Below: (left) New member A.K. Marie Edwards is baptized; (center) sharing abundantly the gifts of food and fellowship; (right) celebrating life abundantly at the Youth Discipleship Retreat; (below right) new member Jim Edwards giving his testimony



Abundant Blessing

That which God created and redeemed he now further blesses by giving His Holy Spirit, to equip us for a life that is abundant today.

Abundant Response

The question is, how shall we respond?

If we have been created, redeemed, and blessed by Him abundantly too, it logically follows that anything short of an abundant response must reveal that something is wrong.

If we have not examined our commitment to God for a while, we might have settled for a walk with him that is far less than it could be.

What can you do?

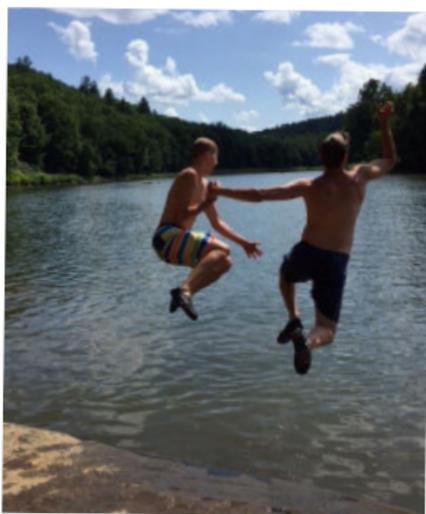
Make a commitment

Commit to responding to God abundantly.

Plan and Pray

Examine your finances prayerfully and decide on what an abundant response means to you.

It might be an incremental multi-year plan or a real leap of faith.



Communicate

The single most useful thing you can do is to let us know how much you intend to give next year. We are funded *entirely* by your giving.

Submit your Intention of Giving so that the Vestry is able to set a budget.

Please *complete and return* an Intention of Giving card or *submit* your response electronically via our website under the “Support” tab. This is critical for our Vestry to be able to set our operating budget.

Consider Legacy Giving

Providing for the church as part of your estate planning is a gift to future generations who will be saved here through an abundance given even after you are with the Lord.

Speak

If you have a story of how God has blessed you, we love it when people share a testimony during our announcements. This is often far more powerful and encouraging than anything else because your story is part of God’s abundant blessing.



Jesus said:

I came that they
may have life
and have it
abundantly.

John 10: 10



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630 Squaw Run Rd E, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238
412/963.8938 | www.christchurchfoxchapel.org