

# Tithes and Offering and Funds, Oh My!

We strive to be good stewards of church finances. As a church we give a 10% tithe to our District office and the Michigan Conference. Each week the Treasure and Pastor review the total income received from the previous week and decide what bills need to be paid just like you would at home. It takes approx. \$3,500 a week to cover church expenses (utilities, payroll, insurance, etc.) and still be able to provide funds for ministry. We rely on faithful giving for budgeting. Our Advisory Team reviews all financials at each monthly meeting. Financial reports are available for anyone to see in the office.

**What is the different between a tithe and an offering?**

*Leviticus 27:30 says that that a tithe from everything of the land belongs to the Lord. And, in Malachi 3:10 we read this, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Jesus further teaches on this when He tells the religious leaders in Mark 12:17, “Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” A tithe is 1/10 of what we own and an offering is anything that is freely given on top of that.*

**Where does my tithe go?**

*The tithes & offerings are used to fund the daily workings of the church, church ministry, and to pay the church's tithes and offerings (also known in United Methodist lingo as ministry shares). Auburn UMC strives to be active in the community, state, nation, and world through various ministries and opportunities for our people to be involved in. Your tithes and offerings make it possible for us to fulfill the mission and vision of our church and the United Methodist Church as a whole.*

**Where does my offerings go?**

*Any offerings received that are not designated go to the General Fund, however, funds that are directly designated can ONLY be used for that designated fund or project. Keep in mind that there must be an approved fund or project established to designate your offering to, you can’t just give \$100 to purchase bean bag chairs for the sanctuary if that is not an approved project. Here is a list of approved funds/projects we are always collecting for:*

<b>Improvement Fund</b>	This fund support the physical well being of the church building and property. It’s primary function is to pay for repairs, maintenance and improvements to the building and property as designated by the Building & Maintenance Team and/ or Advisory Team.
<b>Campership Fund</b>	This fund provides scholarships for kids to go to camp. We believe all kids should have the opportunity to go to camp without causing a financial hardship on their family. Funds are under the direction of the Pastor.
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	This fund collects money given in memory of an individual. Funds in this account are to be used for items outside of the normal and everyday expense. Replacing large/expensive items, starting a new ministry, etc.
<b>Blessings Box</b>	This fund is delegated by the Pastor to help those in our church family in need.
<b>Sunday School</b>	This funds are used specifically to support our Adult, Youth and Child Sunday School program needs.
<b>Youth Group</b>	This funds are used specifically to support our Youth Group activities, mission trips, etc.

**Will I receive a receipt for my taxes?**

*Each January the Financial Secretary prepares a “Giving Statement” for the previous year. To save money on postage, the statements are sealed in individual envelopes and put in your church mailbox to be picked up by you. If you have not picked up your statement or called and asked to have it mailed to you. It will be destroyed after an appropriate amount of time.*

**Do I have to use offering envelopes?**

*It is not necessary to use an offering envelope, they are more of a convenience to remind you to pay your tithe. However, there is a number on the envelope that was assigned to you that acts as a reference number that does make it quicker for the Financial Secretary to record your tithes and offerings. If you happen to know that number, writing it on your check or envelope is helpful.*

**Can I set up an automatic payment?**

*We offer electronic giving through Subsplash. They offer both repeat automatic payments and one-time giving through our app and website using a debit or credit card.*

If you have any questions please contact:

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