

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS GRATITUDE SUNDAY**

November 18, 2018

### **MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH**

*Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it.*

1Peter 4:10 (MSG)

#### **Our Grateful Response:**

- *What is the Gratitude Sunday Stewardship Program?*

All we have comes from God. Gratitude Sunday is our faithful response to the many gifts God has given us. The program focuses on the spirituality of giving, our relationship with God, and how we can continue to grow in that relationship.

- *Why are we changing our stewardship program?*

Gratitude Sunday, unlike our traditional pledge campaign, more fully acknowledges our giving as a spiritual commitment and an act of worship. Our giving helps advance God's realm of unconditional love, grace and belonging.

- *How can one grow spiritually by giving?*

We will grow in joy – because giving feels good! We will grow in hope, believing that God uses our giving to change lives and change the world. We will grow in faith as we practice trusting in God more than in what we have. And we will grow in love, for Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- *How can children and youth participate in the program?*

Gratitude Sunday is an opportunity for parents to discuss the idea of giving back to God a portion of what God has provided to them. Depending on their ages, children can decide to donate a proportion of what they receive through their allowances, child-sitting, or other age-appropriate sources of money. Their donations can be made on Sundays during Church School.

- *Do the clergy give?*

Yes. Each clergy member at Marble is participating in Gratitude Sunday, along with the congregation.

- *Who is aware of what I give?*

Only staff members in the Business Office at Marble are aware of your financial giving and they are expected to keep this information confidential.

#### **What to Give**

- *How do I determine what to give?*

As part of the Gratitude Sunday program, we are adopting a practice called “estimate of giving.”

- *How do I determine my “estimate of giving?”*

Your “estimate of giving” should reflect a percentage of gross income or whatever you deem to be an honest representation of your resources and/or income.

- *How do I calculate my “estimate of giving?”*

Regardless of whether you contribute weekly, monthly or annually, we are encouraging everyone to calculate their estimate of giving on a weekly basis. To help with this, we have provided a chart for calculating percentage-based giving amounts.

- *Why should I provide an “estimate of giving?”*

Telling Marble in advance what you intend to give enables the church to practice what we preach: good and faithful stewardship. Thoughtful budgeting and planning positions Marble to be maximally responsive to the call of God and the needs of the world.

- *What is the difference between a pledge and “estimate of giving?”*

A pledge is your commitment to give a set amount to God through the church; an “estimate of giving” is the response of the giver to “What is God calling me to give?” After prayerful discernment, the giver records the amount he/she feels called to give, turns that in to the church on Gratitude Sunday, and commits to a faith journey with God to meet the commitment.

- *What is tithing as it relates to Gratitude Sunday?*

Tithing is giving 10% of our gross income as a goal, which is found in the Old Testament. Others strive to give in a way that is sacrificial and makes a difference to the way they, as people of faith, live day to day. Whatever approach one takes, we are always mindful that “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

- *Can I change my estimate of giving at any time during the year?*

Yes, if your circumstances change, please contact the Business Office to adjust your level of giving.

## **How to Give**

- *What are the different ways in which I can give?*

- Use envelopes provided by the church and put your gifts into the offering plates during worship.
- Set up automatic, recurring deductions from your bank account via [MarbleChurch.org/Give](http://MarbleChurch.org/Give). You can also set up automatic, recurring deductions by contacting the Marble Business Office at 212 686-2770.
- Make individual gifts online at any time: [MarbleChurch.org/Give](http://MarbleChurch.org/Give) (or download the Marble smartphone app).
- Text any amount to (917) 935-4491 (standard messaging rates apply).
- Mail checks to Marble Collegiate Church, attention: Business Office.

- *Can I use stocks and other assets as part of my gifts?*

Yes, you may use stocks and other assets as part of your gifts. Contact Shana Wolfe in the Business Office at 212 686-2770 or at [swolfe@marblechurch.org](mailto:swolfe@marblechurch.org).

- *Whom do I talk to if I have a question about my giving?*

Contact Shana Wolfe in the Business Office at (212) 686-2770 or at [SWolfe@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:SWolfe@MarbleChurch.org) if your question relates to the financial aspects of giving. Contact any minister at Marble if you have questions about the spiritual aspects of giving.

## **Marble’s Resources in Relation to Gratitude Sunday Stewardship Program**

- *How will my gifts be used?*

Your gifts are received as an expression of gratitude and worship to God, and they will be used to support our ministries at Marble. It is through our combined support that we can grow in our relationships, grow deeper in our faith, grow in our generosity, grow across generations, and grow in reaching successive generations with the possibility of flourishing through faith in Christ.

- *Will my gifts be used to help support construction costs of the new building project at 3 W. 29th Street?*

No. The costs of construction for the building project will be covered by funds from the Collegiate Corporation. Once constructed, as with our current space, Marble will be responsible for the cost of furnishing the new space and its operating costs.

*As we continue to grow spiritually in our giving, we may reflect on God’s Word about giving shared with us through the following scripture passages:*

1 Chronicles 29:12  
Psalm 24:1  
Proverbs 3:9  
Proverbs 21:20  
Matthew 25:21, 29  
Luke 16:11  
2 Corinthians 9:6-7  
Colossians 3:23-24  
James 1:17