

Financial FAQ

How can I find out how much I've given this year or in a previous year?

- We send giving statements periodically to everyone who has given.
- You can call the church office at any time to request a statement be mailed to you.
- Or you can look at your giving from our website. Click on the “member portal” button at the top of this page, enter your email and password. Go to the “portal menu” at the top of this page and select “My Contribution Statement”. You can change the year to see your giving for a previous year. You are also able to print your statement by clicking the “save as PDF” button

Who sees how much I give?

The staff in the Finance department sees how much you give. It is also possible that ushers may occasionally inadvertently see checks as they are emptied out of offering containers. Neither Elders nor staff outside of the Finance department ever sees this information.

How much should I give?

In the Old Testament, 10% was the portion of honor that many gave back to God. The New Testament is silent on the subject of how much to give. We believe this is because it's all about relationship, not amount. If God had given us a flat amount or percentage, we would likely give to that level and no further, thinking very little about it. Instead, God desires that we interact with Him as we consider how much to give. He wants the process to draw us closer to Him. He wants us to be open to whatever He lays on our heart. We believe a good goal is to be on a trajectory to give a greater percentage of gross income back to Him over time.

What's the biblical perspective on debt?

Proverbs 22:7 says, “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” Nowhere does the Bible prohibit debt (although it does prohibit charging usury or excessive interest). On the other hand, debt is not spoken of in favorable terms. At the very least, it seems prudent to avoid debt that may put us in compromising situations (for instance, owing more money than the underlying asset is worth). We believe the issue is contentment, not debt. Debt oftentimes is a symptom of being discontent. Paul exhorts us to follow his example in Philippians 4:9, then several verses later talks about how he has learned to be content in whatever circumstances he is in. In I Timothy 6:6, he tells Timothy that “godliness with contentment is great gain.” As with giving, we believe Christ would have us interact with Him over our spending and borrowing decisions. In the end, He desires that we represent Him well, which means fulfilling our obligations to others (see Romans 13:6-7).

Can I designate my gift to a specific ministry?

Not in most cases. Exceptions include instances when we specifically request “over and above” giving (building projects and camp scholarships, for example), and benevolence.

Do we support any missionaries? If so, who and where?

Yes, we do. Lots of them. To find out who we support throughout our city, across Alaska and around the world go to our website and click missions under the Ministries heading at the top of the page.

What kind of financial/budget information is available for review?

The church is audited annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant. You may request a copy from the Finance office. Budget information is shared in a variety of ways with the body throughout the year. Specific questions may be directed to Brenda Hanson, Finance Director. We also post a monthly financial update which you can view by clicking the link at the bottom of our website giving page.

Why do you request that we not use credit cards for online giving unless they are paid in full every month?

It is a documented fact that personal credit card debt is a growing problem for many people today. If this is an area of struggle for you (likely the case if you do not pay your balance off in full each month), we want to be part of the solution, not make the problem worse. Will you let us be a part of the solution? We would love the opportunity to discuss this further with you in person or on the phone.