

Stepping Into Shared Abundance

Burke UMC Stewardship Appeal 2026

This year, we have seen ministry take shape in many exciting ways – for example:



- our building is being utilized by more groups
- our outreach ministries continue to reach new families in our communities
- we have offered new adult classes and expanded our Sunday School classes for the Fall
- we have offered great opportunities for people to grow in community, and we continue to engage more people in our worship (both in person & online)

Our Leadership Board created new mission, vision, and value statements last year that express who we are and who we hope to be. These will help guide us in living into God's call for Burke Church in 2026.

To do all that we believe God is calling us to, we need your help!

We invite you to read the enclosed letter and consider the request we have made for you to step up your estimate of giving next year. If we all commit, we can meet the needs of the church (and maybe more)! May we be in a discerning space as we move through this season together.

OUR NEEDS FOR 2026

As you consider your giving for 2026, we want to lift up the ways that your giving helps us step into shared abundance for the year ahead:

STAFF SUPPORT: We have a wonderful staff of gifted individuals who work hard to support the meaningful ministry that happens at Burke UMC. For us to support them as the cost of living rises, and the building and ministries continue to expand, we must also increase the congregation's giving. Staff salaries are a large part of our budget and are funded solely by the generosity of our congregation.

PROGRAM MINISTRIES: From Burke Gives Back to social justice site visits to gathering often for times of fellowship, our Care, Learn, Share, and Worship ministries reflect what it means to be a church full of disciples of Jesus Christ. Your gifts make it possible to fund vital program ministries that touch the lives, within our congregation and our wider community.

CARE FOR THE BUILDING: Another significant portion of our budget is maintaining our church building. While we have been fortunate to receive a significant grant from the NoVa District to cover the cost of our kitchen renovation, the day-to-day upkeep relies on your generous gifts. As the building is used more often, it becomes even more important to keep it well-maintained and welcoming for all who gather here.



WAYS WE DISCERN GIVING

In discerning your giving for 2026, here are some considerations and questions that may help guide your reflection.



SPIRITUAL

Giving financially to further the work of Christ in the world is a meaningful part of how we live out our faith. Grounded in that faith, we're called to embody God's love and grace in all we do. Because we believe the church is the Body of Christ in the world, giving to the church becomes a tangible way to live out that belief. When our faith is rooted in generosity, giving becomes a practice of recognizing the abundance we receive from God.



In what ways do I give as an expression of my faith, considering the blessings I have received?



BIBLICAL

Scripture speaks often about money, particularly the blessing found in giving. In the church, we often look to the Biblical principle of tithing: the idea of offering 10% of what we have back to God. You might use this metric to consider your overall charitable giving or what you give specifically to the church. You'll find a tool on our website to help you calculate 10% of your household income or determine the percentage you currently give.



How much do I currently give, and what would it look like for my household to give 10% to the church or other charitable work?



PRACTICAL

Many of us approach giving in response to tangible needs. Our proposed 2026 budget of \$1.23 million relies entirely on the generosity of our congregation. To continue our vibrant ministry offerings, we need everyone to give in generous and thoughtful ways. We know that each household's financial situation is different, and we invite you to reflect on how your giving aligns with your spending and priorities.



Where does giving to the church fit in our household's financial priorities, and how would unmet needs in the church impact our shared faith?

OUR GOAL

“The more we know
we are blessed with
abundance,
the more we can
open our hands and
lives to others.”

-Parker Palmer

As we look to 2026, our proposed budget totals close to \$1.23 million. To support our vision, we hope to increase giving by \$100,000.

How do we plan to reach that goal? By inviting each household to prayerfully consider the amount outlined in your individual letter—or more, if you feel called. If everyone participates, we believe we can reach this goal together, without placing burden on a few or having to reduce our ministry offerings.

At burkeumc.org/stewardship, you'll find several tools to support your discernment:

- stories from fellow members about why they give
- a giving calculator to help you consider percentage-based giving
- a detailed look at our budget, showing how your generosity fuels the ministries of Burke UMC



We are deeply grateful for generosity and invite you and your family to submit your Estimate of Giving Card, either online or hard copy, by October 19th.

Visit our website for resources,
more information, and to fill out
your online Estimate of Giving Card!

burkeumc.org/stewardship

