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## **PLEDGE SUNDAY PERSPECTIVE**

The tithe has fallen out of favor in many circles because it is talked about exclusively in the Old Testament. The argument goes that Jesus or Paul never mentioned it and offered alternative mindsets for giving instead. Paul says that “God loves a cheerful giver,” so many would say that we should give out of joy, and not obligation. Jesus, too, has no words to speak towards the idea of the tithe, and so many have suggested that the 10% standard should be tossed out—a believer should simply give as they are joyfully able to.

Let me offer an alternative perspective. Jesus’ ministry was addressed almost exclusively to the “sheep of Israel”. His primary goal was calling faithful Jews to practice their faith more earnestly to distinguish themselves from the world, and to resist the pagan and worldly habits of Rome. From this perspective, I think it is far more likely that, instead of REMOVING the mandate to tithe by not mentioning it, **Jesus simply took it for granted!** ALL faithful Jews practiced tithing to support the ministry and existence of the Temple. This was a given. Instead, Jesus called them to cheerful and willful giving BEYOND this.

Jesus praises the Poor Widow who gives out of her poverty ALL that she has. He challenges the Rich Young Man to sell everything he has to give it to the needy. After choosing to follow Jesus, Zaccheus pays back the people he cheated 4x what he took from them. It’s safe to say that Jesus’ demand was FAR more than we give it credit for, and that if we say “the New Testament doesn’t mention tithing” it is more an act of avoidance, rather than following the call of Jesus. I invite you to consider this as you prepare to give your Pledge Card this Sunday, and pledge to give in a proportionate/percentage-based manner, as is first demonstrated by the tithe.

Beyond this, I invite you to consider all your gifts and contributions to those in need this Advent season. My family is grateful to support the work of MHBC and our partners through the budget, and we are pledging to grow that percentage this year. But beyond this, we are grateful for the chance to support other ministries we care about with our giving, including many of the collections happening here. Please prayerfully consider the level of giving God is calling you to this year for our budget, as well as these wonderful opportunities to bless others at Christmas:

1. **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** collections continue this month, collecting canned hams.
2. The **Jericho Toy Barrel** is in our foyer to collect books/toys for local children.
3. Poinsettias are on sale for \$10 in the office to support the **CBF Global Missions Offering**.
4. Christmas Festival auction items can be given through Sunday to benefit **Helping Hands**.
5. You can write/send Christmas cards to church members at the **MHBC Acteens Post Office**.
6. **Monelison Middle School FCA** is collecting hygiene items and small toys for the Shoebox Ministry through early December, and you can make donations there.

It is a joy to serve alongside of you each season--and especially this one--as your pastor! **-Josh**

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

**9:45 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**11:00 AM - MORNING WORSHIP**

### **SPECIAL ELEMENTS**

Rev. Josh Beeler’s sermon: “Sabbath/Rest”

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Chancel Choir “It is Good to Give Thanks”

Handbell Choir



**DEACON OF THE WEEK**

Nov. 24 Marvin Jefferson & Harold Massie

**DEACONS SERVING NOVEMBER 24**

Mary Ellen Bryant J.C. Fore  
Tracey Garrett Les Irvin  
Michael McPhatter Justin Owen

**NOVEMBER 17, 2024 OFFERINGS**

Budget Envelopes.....\$ 4,460.00

**(Weekly Budget Needs \$9199.06)**

Plate Offering.....\$ 55.00  
Designated Offering.....\$ 510.00  
TOTAL DEPOSIT.....\$ 5025.00  
Find Us Faithful.....\$ 310.00

**NOVEMBER USHERS**

Hesper & Don Mays

**IN THE HOSPITAL/REHAB**

Barbara Stokes and Mary Ann Sitton  
Both are at Liberty Ridge.

**THANK YOU**

The Stewardship Committee extends their sincere gratitude to the Kitchen Committee for making the Stewardship lunch a huge success!

**POINSETTIAS**

Special envelopes are available if you wish to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary or give the cost of a poinsettia to the CBF Global Missions Offering in memory or in honor of a loved one.  
The cost is \$10.

**NATIVITY SET SIGNUP**

This coming Sunday, Nov. 24, we will place the nativity sets in the sanctuary windows for the Christmas season. We need two more sets to decorate each window. Please call the church office if you have a set to share.



**ACTEENS MISSIONS MAILBOXES**

The Acteens Missions Post Office opens Dec. 1 to mail Christmas cards to active church members and shut-ins. Please include first and last names on the envelopes. A donation box will be placed by the mailboxes on the table in the main hallway.

**JERICHO TOY BARREL**

It is time for our annual partnering with Jericho to bring joy to children in need. NEW toys/games/books, etc. can be placed in the barrel located in the foyer until mid-December.



**FELLOWSHIP**

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

**December 1 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

Children's crafts, silent auction, light refreshments.

Live auction begins at 5 p.m.

**Donations are being accepted for the auctions until November 29.**

Donations include: jewelry, gift cards, & gently used items. Share items that demonstrate your talents including food items, crafts, paintings, pottery, woodworking, etc.

All proceeds support Helping Hands Ministry.

**KOINANIAS**

Nov 26- 9:15 a.m. Depart for Liberty Ridge

**FAMILY MINISTRIES**

No Wednesday night ministries on Nov 27. Activities will resume Wed, Dec. 4

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