



Spring Newsletter
walking the ancient paths together

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

How to Give

How do I give?

One would expect the biblical answer to this question to include adverbs such as: generously, cheerfully, gratefully, freely, faithfully and regularly. For the record those are good words and indeed, we should apply them all! Today, however, I am addressing the mechanics and context of giving. We are introducing electronic giving to the church and this requires us to think through these issues once again.

Why offer electronic giving?

The answer to this question is uncomplicated. As we all know, banking and money management have changed greatly over the years. We are offering electronic giving for convenience and flexibility. We hope to make it easier for people to give regularly to the church and to provide options for different types of contributions that are sometimes made. To be clear, we will continue to accept check and cash offerings as usual. We are adding electronic giving, not removing any current giving methods.

Is giving electronically good and biblical?

This is an important question and the elders and deacons of the church have wrestled with it as we made the decision to introduce electronic giving. Our instinctive answer might be “why wouldn’t it be? What’s wrong with giving online?”

Remember, though, that giving to the local church isn’t the same as giving to a standard charity; for us it is primarily an act of *corporate worship*.

The presentation of our tithes and offerings is not done in worship for convenience, but

out of conviction. Scripture, the Westminster Confession and our Presbyterian Book of Church Order affirm the place of giving in worship. While offering the option of electronic giving, the

PCA Book of Church Order, 54.2

“It is both a privilege and a duty, plainly enjoined in the Bible, to make regular, weekly, systematic and proportionate offerings for the support of religion and for the propagation of the Gospel in our own and foreign lands, and for the relief of the poor. This should be done as an exercise of grace and an act of worship, and at such time during the service as may be deemed expedient by the Session.”

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elders and deacons nevertheless want to encourage you to continue to participate in the physical and heart act of giving during corporate worship.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of giving electronically?

Giving is a good thing to do. But like every good gift of God, it can be corrupted. We can be stingy and give begrudgingly – “Here they go again, asking for my hard-earned-money.” We can give as if we are paying a bill or our taxes – “I don’t like it, but I have to do it.” Giving can also become a thoughtless routine like so many others. We do it without really thinking about it. In my own experience with giving to various organizations electronically, this is even more of a danger. Writing a check at least provides a regular reminder to pray, recognize what we are doing and even think about how much we are giving. When it is done “automatically” I am more tempted to forget.

We all need to be aware of this temptation and avoid it. If you choose to give electronically, whether occasionally or regularly, then please take the time to do so thankfully, in a spirit of worship and with prayer (1 Tim 4:4-5). If you are a family with children, take the time to explain this to your children, lest it seem to them that you don’t contribute anything when the offering is taken during worship. (Yes, they are watching.) Teach them to give early and show them by your example and explanation. As the offering is taken in worship, take a moment to pray with thanksgiving over what you’ve given even if it did not happen at that actual moment.

2 Cor. 9:6-9

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Why We Give and How We Give

If you need a reminder of the grace of giving, may I suggest a quick read of Deut 14:22-29. In this passage the connections are made clear between God’s provision, our tithing, worship and rejoicing in the Lord. The passage even describes some flexibility in the mechanics of giving depending on where you live with reference to Jerusalem. If you lived in or near Jerusalem you brought your actual produce to the temple as a tithe. Whereas if that was impractical because you lived too far away, then you sold your produce, took the money with you to Jerusalem and

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then bought provisions in Jerusalem for your tithe. That pragmatic instruction regarding the tithe has been an important part of our considerations regarding electronic giving! If you are not in the habit of giving generously in worship, you need to think through this carefully. We have a command to honor the Lord through our giving and in particular to the local church community of which we are a part (see vs 28).

We are about to have some unique opportunities to challenge ourselves in sacrificial giving. The building committee will be introducing the plans for Phase-2 renovations this Sunday. The plans are ambitious. We are seeking to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. It will take sacrificial offering to see these plans through to completion. As you think and pray through the opportunity and then give, *may you learn to fear the Lord always* (Deut 14:23) and *rejoice* (14:26) *that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do* (14:29).



And a little child shall lead them...

After the Sunday service a parent brought their very young child up to me. Through a Sunday school lesson, she had learned about helping her parents, and now she wanted to help the church. Her mom wrote down these words as they were dictated to her:

To church, From _____

I love church.

This is my church. I like to help my church by spending my money for the church.

This is my church. I would love to help my church by spending my money to buy things for my church.

It was clear that my responsibility in the conversation was to hear her commitment, thank her and come-up with something concrete “to buy”. If you know me, my answer won’t surprise you. I suggested that she buy some flowers that we could plant outside of the church in the spring. Her face brightened with delight at the prospect and she said, “Ooh!”

Dear adults – go to the child. See the simple delight at the simple act. Imitate her.

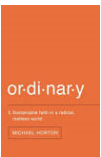
Eric Huber

COMING UP IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

Fellowship Dinner and Congregational Prayer

On the First Wednesday of each month there will be a fellowship dinner and congregational prayer meeting. The dinner begins at 5:30 pm and is provided by the church. The adults meet for prayer from 6:30-7:30 pm and all youth aged five and above will meet for a time of singing, prayer, and teaching. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, Home Bible Fellowships meet throughout the area.

Men's Book Study



The men will be meeting on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM in the church office building at 117 E. 4th Ave. We are currently discussing the book "Ordinary" by Michael Horton. If you would like a copy of the book, or have other questions about this ministry, contact Rich DeLecce. (ddecce@aol.com).

1st Sunday Potlucks

WIC will be hosting a potluck on the first Sunday of each month. Please join us for this time of fellowship after the morning service. Please bring an entrée or a side dish to share. Avoid using nuts, nut products, or shellfish due to allergy concerns.

Women's Saturday Morning Bible Study

The Women's Saturday Bible Study meets once a month. At present, we are studying 'The Promised One' Seeing Jesus in Genesis by Nancy Guthrie. All women in the church are welcome. For information contact Charlotte Schmucker at 610-647-1362.



COMING UP IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

Young Lives Baby Bottle Collection

Fill 'em up!

It's time for the YoungLives Baby Bottle Collection. For the uninitiated, we participate in this annual fund raiser that ministers to unwed teen mothers and their children.

Empty plastic baby bottles will be available for you to take home on Mother's Day, May 14th.

Please return them filled with cash or checks by Father's Day, June 18th.

Monies collected directly support operational expenses to provide practical help and spiritual support to young at-risk moms.

Please contact Carole Erickson with any questions

at [610.783.1220](tel:610.783.1220) or carole.erickson@verizon.net.

Thank you for positively impacting two generations at once with your donations!

Food Collection

Thank you, CTK family, for contributing monthly to the Colonial Neighborhood Council's food cupboard! Your faithful donations of non-perishables are a blessing to the community. The most recent need (in addition to food items) has been personal products, such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, feminine products, deodorant, etc. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Lauren Elban or Michele Eichert. Donations are collected the 3rd Sunday of the month.

GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT

The Marinus Ensemble will be performing Haydn's The Seven Last Words of Christ, on Good Friday, April 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Light refreshments will be available afterwards. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.



Beautiful Music in a Beautiful Space

God has been gracious to us in giving us such a beautiful building in which we worship. This is a great way of using this resource—to fill it with music while simultaneously reflecting on the sacrifice of our Lord. What is more, it allows us to invite the community to share in this great blessing. It's an opportunity we shouldn't miss! We are privileged to have such a talented group of musicians playing for us, including our own Rachel Yonan, and we give thanks to our God for making this possible!

It's also an opportunity to invite friends, family members, and neighbors. Though the concert takes place in a church, it is, in fact, a concert. That means it's an easy thing to invite people who don't normally want to go to church to go to. Most will have a natural desire to attend, so grab some of the printed invitation cards in the back of the church this week and hand them out to people at your school, or library, or work place.

THE ULTIMATE RETREAT

We already have a lot of sign-ups for the Ultimate Retreat, but there's still time to jump on! I'm increasingly excited as the big weekend approaches. This truly is a wonderful time on bonding and learning, and there's so much to do, and so many ways of having fun, it "fits" every kind of kid. I've never had anyone not have a great experience, which is a great encouragement.



The other thing I love about this retreat is the partnership that we have developed with other churches in our Presbytery. We currently have 6 PCA churches participating, drawing kids from all around the area. It's great diversity, and yet all united around the common goal of growing in Christ.

For those not participating directly, I'd ask that you pray for me as I prepare the four messages for this weekend. We will be looking at "Surprising Things Jesus Says" about himself. Pray for clarity and relevance, that the kids would come with attentive minds, and that the Spirit would move in all our hearts.

- Tommy

MINISTRIES AT CTK

- **Sunday School.** CTK offers bible teaching tailored for each stage of life. K-5 meets in the church office (117 4th Avenue; teachers will direct your child to the specific room for their age), Middle School and Senior High are on the top floor of the church building, and Adults are on the main floor. Contact: Tommy Keene
- **First Wednesdays.** Prayer and fellowship are an important component of body life. On the first Wednesday of every month we gather at the church to share a meal together and pray for one another. Contact: Eric Huber
- **Spring Mill Retirement Home.** Members of Christ the King regularly lead a worship service at Spring Mill on Sundays. It is well loved and attended (see the picture below), and is a great opportunity to visit the elderly there. If you are interested in participating, contact Peter Stahl.
- **Youth Group.** We offer programs for Middle School and Senior High students designed to encourage fellowship, family life, and spiritual growth. Our regular meetings are on the First Wednesday of every month (see above), but we also have a number of opportunities throughout the year, including a Winter Ski Trip, Spring Retreat, Summer Missions Trip, Fall Picnic, and intermittent game nights. Contact: Tommy Keene
- **Home Fellowship Groups.** Bible studies and fellowship groups meet in homes throughout the area. These groups provide a great way to connect with neighbors and friends, to grow in our common faith, and to pray for and disciple one another. You can contact Tommy Keene if you're interested in finding a group, or talk to one of the leaders below.
- Mike LoRusso leading at the Stahl's home in Wayne at 6:45pm. (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)



MINISTRIES AT CTK

- Tommy Keene leading at the Kirkland's home in West Norriton at 6:00pm (2nd and 4th Wednesdays).
- John Erickson leading at the Erickson's home in Valley Forge at 7:00 p.m. (2nd and 4th Wednesdays).
- **Choir and Music.** Music is a fundamental component of our worship, and we strive for excellence as we offer our sacrifice of praise to the Lord. "I will sing and make melody with all my being! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!" If you are interested in participating in this ministry, either with song or instrument, contact our music director, Justin Proffitt.
- **First Sunday Potlucks.** We regularly feast together immediately after morning worship on the first Sunday of every month. Bring a meal to share (but join us anyway if you forgot!). If you are interested in helping with our food and kitchen ministry, contact Barbara Lorusso.
- **Women in the Church (WIC).** WIC seeks to assist the women of the church to honor and love God and serve one another in love. Our mission is to care for women, to integrate new women into the life of the church, and to promote fellowship, mercy, and Bible study opportunities. We are often are looking for people to host events, or make meals for a church family in need, or planning and detail help with any of the above. Contact us atwic@christthekingpca.org or by speaking with Dana McGahey.
- **Men's Book Study.** The men meet on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM in the church office building at 117 E. 4th Ave. We are currently discussing the book Ordinary by Michael Horton. If you'd like a copy of the book, or have other questions about this ministry, contact Rich DeLecce.
- **Nursery.** Christ the King offers nursery services for all children under the age of 5 (or 6 for evening services and special services) during all morning and evening worship services, as well as for Sunday School and most special services. Our volunteers are dedicated, caring, and hard workers! Even at a young age our children are forming bonds of fellowship that they will value and rely on for years to come, and our nursery volunteers are dedicated to promoting those relationships. This isn't just "babysitting," it's ministry! If you have questions about how the nursery functions, or would like to serve in this important ministry, contact Maria Signorino.
- **Greeters and Ushers.** Hospitality is important to us! Our greeters and ushers are in charge of welcoming people into our church home and helping out with any needs that come up during the service. If you're interested in helping this area, contact Tommy Keene.

SERVING IN THE CHURCH THIS MONTH

	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30
Greeters 4th Ave	Anna Ludlum	Jeri Mahurin	Elizabeth Stahl	Rich/Debbie DeLecce
Greeters Fayette Street	Debbie Doyle	Ray Doreian	Kathy Daly	Charlotte Schmucker
Set Up	Nick Kirkland	Jay Signorino	Dave Hudson	John Erickson
Ushers	<i>Dave Ritter</i> Jack Newman Peter Stahl Chip Signorino	<i>Jay Signorino</i> Mark Hoffman Dave Ritter John Erickson	<i>Nick Kirkland</i> Pat Canale Dan McGahey Dave Hudson	<i>Dave Hudson</i> Josh Tyson Rob Ghrist Tom Blackburn
Sunday School Nursery	Clarice Helfand	No Sunday School	Anne Schneider	Nicole Canale
Morning Nursery	Christy Helfand Clarice Helfand Charlotte Schmucker Richard Stahl	Debbie Ghrist Annie Ghrist Renee Blackburn Hope Blackburn	Michelle Eichert Liz Hudson Josh Tyson Daniel Stahl	Maria Signorino Christine Hoffman Rebecca Kirkland Lucy Tyson
Evening Nursery	Terry Smith Lauren Huber	No Evening Service	Peter Stahl Elizabeth Stahl	Josh Helfand Clarice Helfand