

September 13, 2024

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2025
Rejoice in the Past, Reach for the Future

Dear Friends of John Wesley UMC,

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Philippians 4:4

The Stewardship Ministry team invites you to rejoice in the abundant blessings of JWUMC. As a church family we collectively have so much to rejoice about! We rejoice in those who have come before us, showing us how to live and love generously in our Christian faith. We rejoice in our varied and meaningful worship services that nurture our souls and strengthen our Christianity. We rejoice in our vital outreach ministries that are directed at demonstrating our Christian love and support to our neighbors. We rejoice in our evolving Christian Education, our inspiring music, our caring church family, and our beautifully maintained facilities serving not only us, but many essential community groups. We are indeed a strong and vital church, with our members highly engaged in the mission of our church: **“Love God. Love Others. Serve the World.”** Furthermore, as a vibrant church, we are uniquely connected to our world, our local community and to each other. We also have the potential to reach for the future!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

We sense God is moving us in new directions. We are being called to lead people to Christian faith and love, to deepen our personal faith through prayer, study and worship, and to serve in areas of our community where we see need. When asked to vision what the possibilities for our church could be, with more resources available, our church leaders and members had pages of notes of fantastic ideas at the visioning session this year. We are ready to step up and step out in faith! There is much more within our reach for each of us, and especially for us together as a church.

The Stewardship Ministry Team is asking each of us to prayerfully consider how we can best support what John Wesley church is now and what it can be in the future with your financial gifts. In the next 4 weeks, we will strive to inform you, guide you, inspire you, and with God's abundant grace, motivate you to see how JWUMC is worth your precious financial investment. Please consider how you can support JWUMC with your financial commitment. Please reach within and reach out in faith. Each pledge is significant. Of course, if you are suffering a financial setback, you are always welcome at this church, even if you cannot make a gift at this time.

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Corinthians 13:11.

May God's abundant blessings continue to be upon you,
The Stewardship Ministry Team: Ted Burt, Jan Dahl, Kate Finemore, Maryellen Geoghan, Tom Hoke (team leader), Tracy Jaekel, and Pastor René Perez

Enclosures:

Stewardship Campaign 2025 Brochure
Pledge Card and Return Envelope

If you have questions, please reach out to Tom Hoke, TomHoke@att.net, 617-834-8124



2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Rejoice in the Past, Reach for the Future.

► SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 9 ◀

GOALS

- 1 Increase pledges to \$375,000
- 2 Increase pledge participation by 10

THE CHURCH WE LOVE • THE CHURCH THAT GIVES SO MUCH!

Rejoice in the Past, Reach for the Future
Christian Stewardship involves each of us sharing our gifts as we live our collective mission to “Love God, Love Others. Serve the World”.

The Stewardship Ministry Team has done a careful study of our past giving patterns to add perspective to where we are today, where we need to go, and how to get there.

BACKGROUND:

The 2024 stewardship campaign was successful in attracting new pledges and securing many generous increases. Half of the 2024 pledges were increased by 18% or greater. Several even doubled. But the total dollars pledged fell short of the goal by \$45,000. As is the case each year, there were some pledges that were lost. The dollar amount of the lost pledges was \$46,000 of which one was a major pledge of \$35,000. Had we not lost these pledges, we would have hit the goal.

The good news is that in 2024 we received a general donation of \$35,000. And Pastor René negotiated relief of \$36,000 from the New England Conference which was our 2024 conference support fee. These two items more than offset our \$50,000 2024 pledge shortfall. However, it is not likely that either of them will be repeated in 2025.

THE 2025 PLEDGE GOAL:

Given this situation, John Wesley will continue to be challenged financially and you are invited to help. A pledge goal of \$375,000 has been set for 2025. This is an enormous number, and we ask that each of us prayerfully consider pledging more. There are those who will not be able to but there are those who can. Remember, everyone's gift is considered a blessing no matter the size. The illustration below lists actual 2024 JWUMC levels of pledging along with the number of pledges made at each level.

John Wesley UMC 2024 Pledge Levels

		Giving Range and Period		
		Weekly	Monthly	Annually
Level Pledges	# of			
1	8	\$1.00 - \$5	\$4.00 - \$22	\$52.00 - \$260
2	2	\$5.01 - \$10	\$22.01 - \$43	\$260.01 - \$520
3	7	\$10.01 - \$15	\$43.01 - \$65	\$520.01 - \$780
4	10	\$15.01 - \$20	\$65.01 - \$87	\$780.01 - \$1,040
5	5	\$20.01 - \$25	\$87.01 - \$108	\$1,040.01 - \$1,300
6	2	\$25.01 - \$30	\$108.01 - \$130	\$1,300.01 - \$1,560
7	4	\$30.01 - \$35	\$130.01 - \$152	\$1,560.01 - \$1,820
8	5	\$35.01 - \$40	\$152.01 - \$173	\$1,820.01 - \$2,080
9	2	\$40.01 - \$45	\$173.01 - \$195	\$2,080.01 - \$2,340
10	6	\$45.01 - \$50	\$195.01 - \$217	\$2,340.01 - \$2,600
11	2	\$50.01 - \$60	\$217.01 - \$260	\$2,600.01 - \$3,120
12	5	\$60.01 - \$70	\$260.01 - \$303	\$3,120.01 - \$3,640
13	6	\$70.01 - \$80	\$303.01 - \$347	\$3,640.01 - \$4,160
14	2	\$80.01 - \$90	\$347.01 - \$390	\$4,160.01 - \$4,680
15	3	\$90.01 - \$100	\$390.01 - \$433	\$4,680.01 - \$5,200
16	11	\$100.01 - \$150	\$433.01 - \$650	\$5,200.01 - \$7,800
17	2	\$150.01 - \$200	\$650.01 - \$867	\$7,800.01 - \$10,400
18	2	\$200.01 - \$250	\$867.01 - \$1,083	\$10,400.01 - \$13,000
19	2	\$250.01 - \$300	\$1,083.01 - \$1,300	\$13,000.01 - \$15,600
20	1	\$300.01 - \$400	\$1,300.01 - \$1,733	\$15,600.01 - \$20,800
21	1	\$400 +	\$1,733 +	\$20,800 +
	88			

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Perhaps you were not able to increase your pledge last year. Can you do it in 2025?

Compare your giving level to others in the table to the left. Can you strive for one or multiple levels higher? For example, can a weekly donor of \$15 strive for \$25 or a \$100 donor strive for \$150 or even double to \$200?

There are many in our congregation who give but do not pledge. To those we ask that you consider pledging as a form of stewardship discipline. The church needs to be able to count on your support.

For those who have investments, you might find the enclosed tax saving strategies beneficial.

If you were planning or considering a bequest to the church, perhaps you could adjust your budgeting and add a portion of that bequest each year to your pledge. Enjoy the tax break while you are alive.

PLEDGING BASICS:

- Your pledge will be confidential. Only Pastor René and the church's financial secretary (currently Matt O'Connor) will have knowledge of your pledge.
- You do not need to be a member of John Wesley UMC to pledge.
- It is necessary to make a pledge each year. We do not automatically carry your prior year pledge forward.
- Simply giving on Vanco does not constitute pledging. A pledge card needs to be prepared.
- We encourage the use of pledging envelopes if you plan to make frequent contributions. This will assure that your pledge is properly credited. Otherwise identifying and tracking the pledge is difficult.
- There will be a Q&A session in the chapel following the September 22 9:30 a.m. service.

VANCO:

For those who prefer online giving, may not be able to attend church every week, or prefer to watch the service at home, we have a tool that may be useful. VANCO is an online payment platform to process and collect pledges, offerings and donations securely. It is convenient.

Some of the special features include:

- Make one-time or recurring donations using your checking/savings account or debit/credit card.
- Donations can be set up weekly, monthly, every other month, etc.
- Securely and conveniently review past and manage future donations in your profile.
- If you have submitted a pledge card, your online giving will be reflected on your pledge statements.

TAX SAVING STRATEGIES:

For those of you who have investments, the following are tax saving strategies beyond the standard charitable deduction. They could be a way to help you increase your contribution to John Wesley by off-setting the increase with tax savings.

It is not uncommon for JW to receive major pledges well in excess of \$20,000. In the past we have had \$35,000, \$60,000, 75,000, and currently one family at \$30,000 using these strategies. Perhaps there are others who can step up to this level of generosity.

Stock Transfer

- To avoid paying capital gains tax, make a stock transfer directly to John Wesley UMC.
- The name of the donor does not appear on a stock transfer; therefore, you must notify the church that stock is being transferred each time you do so. You or your broker should contact Elie Harmon, the church treasurer at financejwumc123@gmail.com for the proper procedures to process a transfer. You pay no capital gains tax and deduct the full value of the stock as a standard charitable tax deduction.
- The full value of the stock is tax deductible.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QED) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

- Donors who are 70½ at the time the distribution is made from an otherwise taxable IRA (not an ongoing SEP or Simple IRA) may transfer up to \$105,000 annually directly to John Wesley UMC.
- The tax benefit is that the donation is not included in the donor's adjusted gross income which could raise taxable income to a higher level, increase income tax and increase Medicare costs. And this donation will satisfy the required minimum distribution (RMD) in the year it is made. There is no additional standard charitable tax deduction beyond the reduction of the donor's adjusted gross income.

Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is like a Charitable Investment Account

- Many brokerage firms offer their clients Donor Advised Fund Accounts. Appreciated stock can be transferred into these accounts with no capital gains tax. This fund can send a donation check to qualified charities that is fully tax deductible.

Please consult your accountant to confirm that you qualify for any or all these strategies.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE:

Please complete the Pledge Card below and put it in a sealed envelope to assure confidentiality. Note on the front of the envelop **2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**. You can drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by October 11.

John Wesley UMC, 270 Gifford Street, Falmouth, MA 02540, Thank you!

THANK YOU!

The Stewardship Ministry Team thanks you for taking the time to review all this information. We hope that you will support the 2025 Stewardship Campaign. John Wesley has a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you - your energy, your prayers, and your money - in this work to which God has called us.

JOHN WESLEY UMC 2025 PLEDGE CARD

In 2025, I/we will pledge: \$_____per week, or \$_____per month, or \$_____per year.

Name/s _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you
FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Pledge envelopes not needed due to 1) online giving, 2) anticipated prepayment of a pledge, or 3) plan to pay in one lump sum at a later date.

VANCO If you'd like to consider Vanco, go to JohnWesleyUMC.org and click the **GIVE ONLINE** button

Please place this card in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by October 9