

## Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.

Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

*Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.*



## Key Questions

### What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the art of love and how we are recipients of God's generosity.

### Why is this sermon important?

It is important because we have the opportunity to respond to God's love for us through extravagant generosity.

### What is the good news?

The good news is that God loves you.

### What are the next action steps?

You are invited to pray about this question:

"What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in the year ahead?"

Ask God for wisdom in the use of money and about what extravagant generosity means for you and your family.

### What is the context of this sermon?

This is the second week of a four week stewardship series.

## Metadata

### Topics

- Give

### Sermon Books of the Bible

- Deuteronomy
- John
- Philippians

### Tags

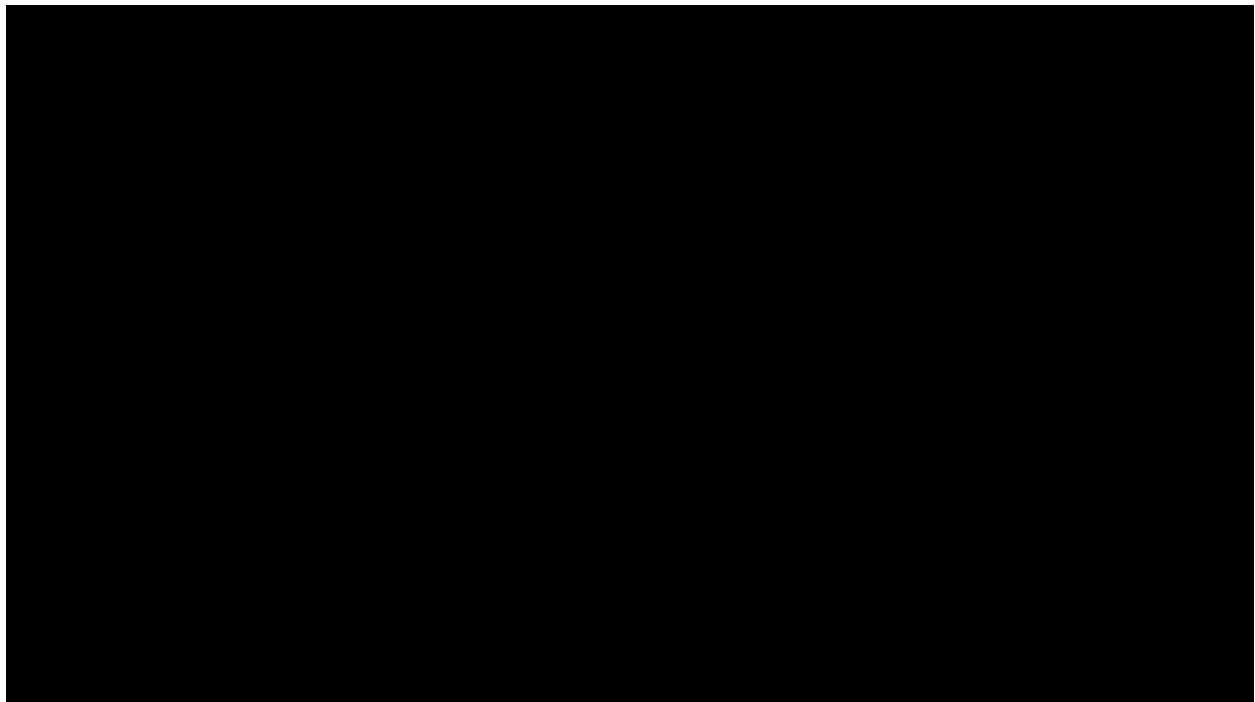
sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, generosity, giving, stewardship, love, extravagant,

### Sermon Audio

*9 a.m. Worship*

*11 a.m. Worship*

### Sermon Video



**Introduction** **4**

John 13:34-35, CEB

John 13:34-35, NRSV

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

**Positive and Negative** **5**

Country Music

News and Life

Positive Focus

Key Scripture - Philippians 4:8

**Love Each Other** **6**

Heart Cards - Things I Love About My Church

Love Each Other

Key Scripture - Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Key Scripture - John 13:34-35

Challenge of Loving Each Other

**Generosity Shows Love** **8**

Fruit of Other's Generosity

Every...

Bear Fruit for Generations

**Conclusion** **8**

Good News

Call to Action

God's Calling for First UMC - People

Commitment Logistics

Annual Giving Commitment

Invitation

Closing Prayer

---

## Introduction

### John 13:34-35, CEB

<sup>34</sup>"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. <sup>35</sup>This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

### John 13:34-35, NRSV

<sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

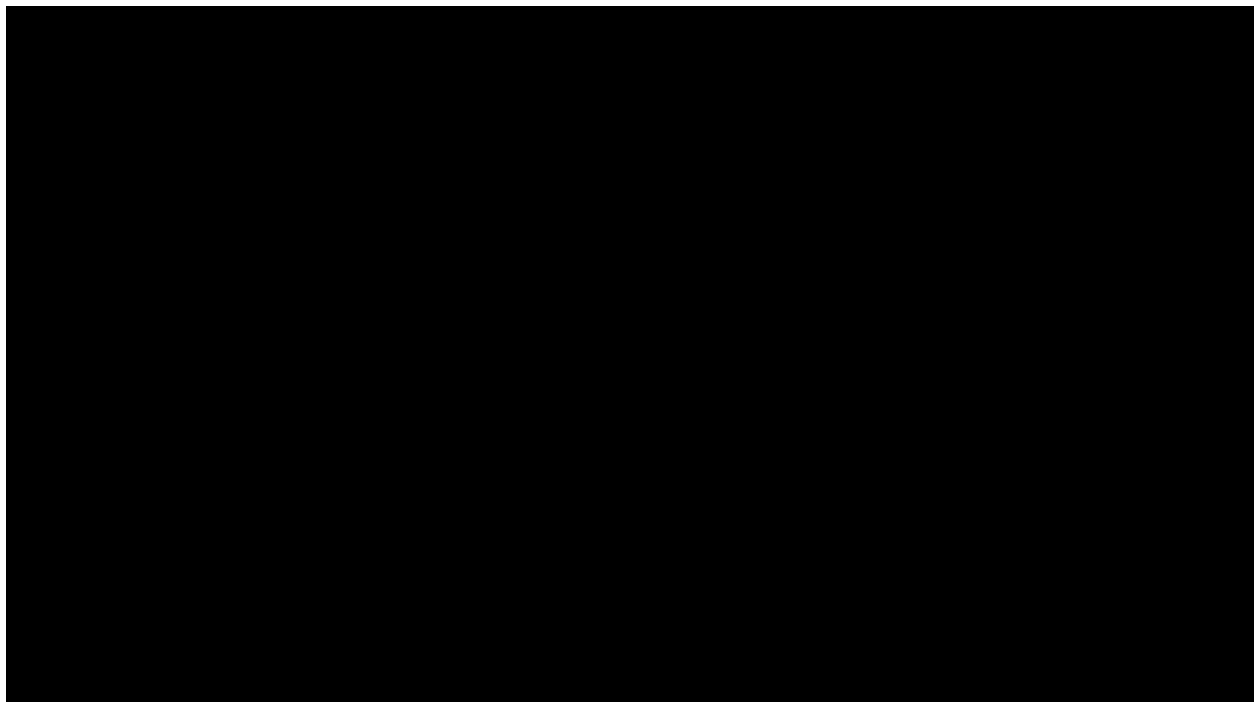
### Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.



---

## Positive and Negative

### Country Music

Country is one of my favorite kinds of music. I like Alan Jackson, George Strait, and many others. While each song is different, at times, there can be a regular routine. You might have heard them called “somebody-done-somebody-wrong songs.”

*Pause*

You might have heard the joke that if you play a country song backwards you get back your truck, your dog, your job, and your spouse.

*Pause*

### News and Life

Perhaps these lyrics are popular because they recognize the difficulties that we have with relationships as humans, but they also speak from the cynical or negative aspects of our culture.

All too often, it seems that the news that we hear or the social media posts that we read are negative.

### Positive Focus

As Christians, part of what we are called to do is to remember to focus on what is good, true, and right.

#### **Key Scripture - Philippians 4:8**

We find that the Apostle Paul encourage the church at Philippi in this way. Hear these words from Philippians 4:8

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.<sup>1</sup>

But our cynical culture sometimes makes it hard to focus on these things, doesn't it? Even as a church, we can struggle to shift focus from the cynical and negative toward the positive and good.

That's why we began a journey last week to consider matters of the heart.

---

<sup>1</sup> Philippians 4:8, CEB.

---

## Love Each Other

### Heart Cards - Things I Love About My Church

I want to share with you some of the things that you wrote last week that you love about our church. This is an image of some of the most common words that were used in your responses. Take a look.

Show 2017-10-01 Sermon 3 - Things I Love about My Church

Let me share a few of the cards with you. Things I love about my church:



- Our dedication to serving the community through our Skelly partnership; that we are striving to live into the vision Jesus cast for the church and offer grace where we fall short<sup>2</sup>
- This church has been “My Rock.” I know whatever happens, my church family will always be there. Their support, love, and friendship is special.<sup>3</sup>
- The people! Everyone has always been so welcoming. Before we were members and everyday since. I also love how our church is constantly trying / looking for

---

<sup>2</sup> Valecia Scribner

<sup>3</sup> Leanna Johnson

ways to “improve”, whether its worship, small groups, community outreach, youth, adults, poverty ... our church is always working, never settling.<sup>4</sup>

- Wonderful inclusive events for all ages; the attention on children / Bonus - connecting them to adults; remodeling the older building but keeping the feel of it's original state
- I love that my church is reverent, but relaxed. I love that my church has history and roots. I love that my church welcomed all to fellowship, worship, serve and grow and partake in communion. I love that my church has one purpose - to reflect Jesus Christ.<sup>5</sup>

## Love Each Other

Today, we received the opportunity to express who you love in the church and why. Let's focus this week on celebrating those we love and their positive influence in our lives. From the great Shema of the Torah in Deuteronomy to the teaching of Jesus found in John 13, this focus on loving relationship is at the root of the scriptural values of our faith.

### **Key Scripture - Deuteronomy 6:4-6**

Hear these words from Deuteronomy 6:4-6:

“Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength.

These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds.”<sup>6</sup>

In the Christian faith, we attend to the teaching of the Shema in the context of the teaching of Jesus.

### **Key Scripture - John 13:34-35**

Like these words from Jesus in the scripture passage for today from John 13:34-35:

“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”<sup>7</sup>

## Challenge of Loving Each Other

One of the ways we express our love for God is through our love for one another. This is a clear expectation of our faith.

Do you find this difficult sometimes?

---

<sup>4</sup> Mandi Hursh

<sup>5</sup> Lindsey Mueller

<sup>6</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4-6, CEB.

<sup>7</sup> John 13:34-45, CEB.

---

*Share example about overcoming obstacles to healthy, loving relationships.*

---

---

## Generosity Shows Love

One of the ways that we can share love for others is through generosity. Extravagant Generosity is a fundamental activity because we ourselves have been recipients of Extravagant Generosity:

### Fruit of Other's Generosity

#### ***Every...***

Every sanctuary and chapel in which we have worshiped, every church organ that has lifted our spirits, every pew where we have sat, every Communion rail where we have knelt, every hymnal from which we have sung, every praise band that has touched our hearts, every church classroom where we have gathered with our friends, every church kitchen that has prepared our meals, every church van that has taken us to camp, every church camp cabin where we have slept—all are the fruit of someone's Extravagant Generosity.

#### ***Bear Fruit for Generations***

This sanctuary is the fruit of your generosity and will continue to bear fruit for generations to come. Yet, we know that we didn't build this building on our own. We have been the recipients of grace upon grace. We are the heirs, the beneficiaries of those who came before us who were touched by the generosity of Christ enough to give graciously so that we could experience the truth of Christ for ourselves. We owe the same to generations to come. We have worshiped in sanctuaries that we did not build, so to us falls the privilege of building sanctuaries where we shall never worship.

---

## Conclusion

### Good News

The good news is that God loves you.

We are each recipients of the extravagant generosity of God.

### Call to Action

#### ***God's Calling for First UMC - People***

As a way to respond to the generosity of God, God has a calling for us together as First United Methodist Church in the year ahead. Our Church Council is working on developing goals for our congregation which will help us take the next faithful step in our life together.

We will continue to invite people to love God, love our neighbor, and live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship, grow, give, serve, and share.



### ***Commitment Logistics***

As we look forward to the way that God will be at work through our congregation in the year ahead, I want to invite you to take action in two specific ways this week:

### ***Annual Giving Commitment***

On October 15, you will have the opportunity to make an annual giving commitment to support God's work through our church. Will you please take time this week to pray about this question:

"What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in the year ahead?"

Ask God for wisdom in the use of money and about what extravagant generosity means for you and your family.

### **Invitation**

We celebrate people that we love in the church.

I am so grateful for the way that you care for people.

... the way you love others.

... how you reach out in concern and service to the world.

Thank you for living a life of extravagant generosity.

### **Closing Prayer**

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

-----  
*And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.*  
-----

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.