
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.
- [Include other notes about graphics or media during the service here]



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 sacrificial giving.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because giving has the power to transform our lives and the lives of others.

What is the good news?

The good news is that giving helps us become what God wants us to be.

What are the next action steps?

You are invited to make an annual giving commitment for 2018 and live into our visions and hopes together.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the final sermon in our stewardship series.

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Give

19th Sunday after Pentecost/in Kingdomtide [Green]
Extravagant Generosity - Declarations of Your Heart
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

October 15, 2017
2 Corinthians 8:24
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,414

Sermon Books of the Bible

- 2 Corinthians
- John
- Luke

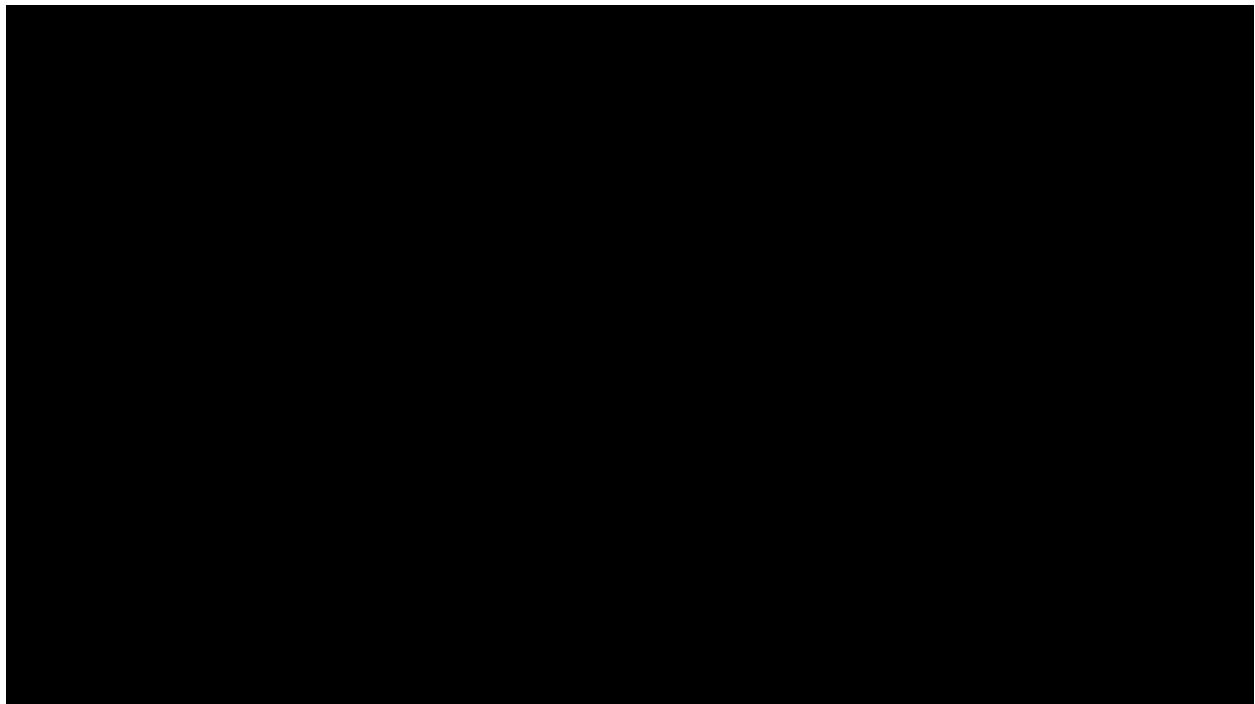
Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, commitment, generosity, vision, hope

Sermon Audio at 9 a.m.

Sermon Audio at 11 a.m.

Sermon Video



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2 Corinthians 8:24, NRSV
Response to Scripture
Sermon Starter Video

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Good News
Call to Action - Visions and Hopes
Annual Giving Commitment
Mugs and Donut Holes - A Way to Say Thank You
Invitation
Closing Prayer

Introduction

2 Corinthians 8:24, CEB

²⁴So show them the proof of your love and the reason we are so proud of you, in such a way that the churches can see it.

2 Corinthians 8:24, NRSV

²⁴Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

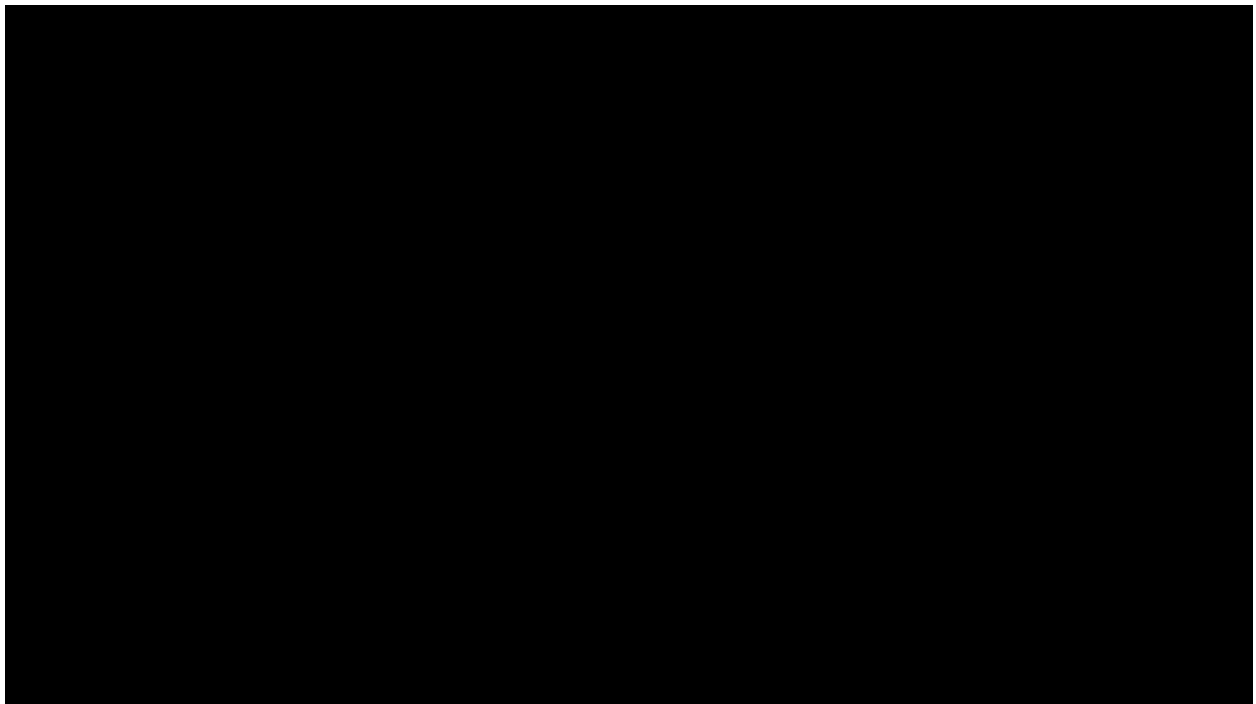
Response to Scripture

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.



Opening Story

My heart has been encouraged as we have journeyed together through our focus on Extravagant Generosity. You have had the opportunity to share matters of the heart. Now it's my turn.

Personal Story

(Share a story about how you have expressed sacrificial love for your spouse or children or grandchildren through a thoughtful gift.)

Transition

Have you ever had an experience like that?
Have you ever given up something for someone you loved?
This idea has deep, biblical roots.

Biblical Roots of Sacrificial Love

John 3:16

Hear these familiar words from John 3:16

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life."¹

The first few words of the well-known passage from John's Gospel clearly states that the way God shows love for the world is by giving.

Giving is part of the character of God.

Bishop Schnase puts it this way in his book Five Practices of Fruitful Living:

We give because we are made in the image of God, whose essential nature is giving. We are created with God's nature imprinted on our souls; we are hard-wired to be social, compassionate, connected, loving, and generous. God's extravagant generosity is part of our essential nature as well. But we are anxious and fearful, influenced by a culture that makes us believe we never have enough. And we are scarred by habits that draw us away from God and that turn us inward with a corrosive self-interest. God sent Jesus Christ to bring us back to ourselves, and back to God. As we "have in us the mind that was in Christ Jesus," we become free. (p.120)

Transition

2 Corinthians 8:24

Hear again these words from 2 Corinthians 8:24:

¹ John 3:16, CEB.

“So show them the proof of your love and the reason we are so proud of you, in such a way that the churches can see it.”²

The entire teaching of the 2 Corinthians passage leading to verse 24 is about giving. Paul concludes that giving is proof (or evidence) of our love of God. God doesn't require our generosity. When we truly accept the generous gift of God's love, our only possible response is to live and give generously.

Is it possible to love God without giving?

Transition

Power of Giving

Invitation to Tithe

Last week, I invited you to make a commitment to give a tithe, or 10%, of your income to God's work through our church.

Some people perceive the tithe to be nothing more than a left-over from an Old Testament law-based theology. They think it is an arbitrary rule with little relevance today.

And yet Jesus commended the practice, even among the Pharisees whom he criticized for making a show of their self-righteousness. The early church practiced the tithe, and so have Christians in every generation since. . . .

Respect and Admire

Name one person you admire and respect because of all they keep for themselves.

Pause

Largeness of spirit leads to an eagerness to give our utmost and highest.

Despite the outward challenges and inner struggles, and the countercultural nature of generosity, where there is a desire to give, there is a way.

Two Coins

You remember the story from the gospel of Jesus at the temple. Hear these words from Luke 21:1-4:

Luke 21:1-4

¹Looking up, Jesus saw rich people throwing their gifts into the collection box for the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow throw in two small copper coins worth a penny. ³He said, “I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than them all. ⁴All of

² 2 Corinthians 8:24, CEB.

them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had to live on.”³

The two coins dropped in the treasury from the hands of the poor widow, noticed by Jesus and recorded for all time as a model of Extravagant Generosity, forever reminds us that there is always a way.

Conclusion

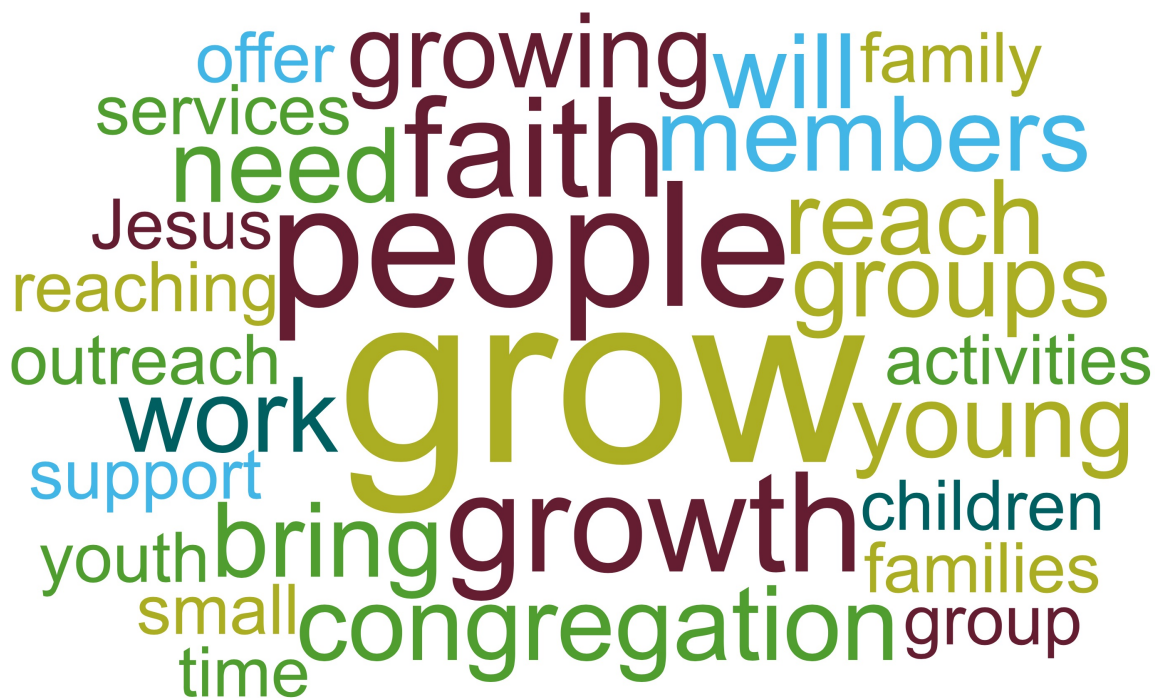
Good News

The good news is that giving helps us become what God wants us to be.

Call to Action - Visions and Hopes

I want to share with you some of what you wrote last week about visions and hopes for our church. This is an image of some of the most common words that were used. Take a look...

Show 2017-10-15 Sermon 2 - Visions and Hopes



Let me share a few of them with you:

That we bring more people to know Christ and mature in faith, each of us

Focus on attracting the unchurched

Deep care for our neighbors

Reaching out to our community

³ Luke 21:1-4, CEB.

Extreme hospitality
These are your dreams and visions.

Annual Giving Commitment

These are powered by your commitments.
Every dollar you give to the church goes to help accomplish

Mugs and Donut Holes - A Way to Say Thank You

I invite every household that completes a commitment card to pick up a mug on your way out of worship today. This is a way of saying thank you for making a commitment to our hopes and visions in the 2018. You will also receive a donut hole as a reminder of the sweetness of extravagant generosity.

Invitation

Thank you.
This is us.
Let's do this.

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.