



~ Every gift counts ... all to the glory of God ~

Stewardship Lay Ministry Guidance for Giving

January 2021



1. Why should I give to Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church?

“Jesus said unto him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22: 37- 40

GIVE OUT OF A SENSE OF GRATITUDE TO GLORIFY GOD:

- To God through whose grace we receive all the blessings and abundance that we enjoy -- as individuals and as a community of faith
- For the efforts and gifts of the many people who make up Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and carry out God’s work in the world
- That in uncertain times -- especially in uncertain times -- we have much to be thankful for, and supporting Bradley Hills with our time, spirit, and money is our best opportunity to return to God and share with others a portion of our blessings

2. How much is enough?

“All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord’s; they are holy to the Lord.” 32 “All tithes of herd and flock, every tenth one that passes under the shepherd’s staff, shall be holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27: 30, 32

SET A GOAL:

- The biblical standard of giving is a tithe: 10% of one’s income or harvest for the year
- The church encourages members and friends to set a goal of contributing 10% of income to charitable causes: 5% to Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, and 5% to other organizations
- Try “growth giving”: Increase your total giving by 1% of income each year. For example, if your contributions total 3% of your income today, set a goal of increasing that total by 1% of your income each year until you reach 10%

3. What else does the Bible say about money?

“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK!

- In the Bible there are 2,350 verses dealing with money and possessions, compared to 500 describing prayer. One sixth of Jesus’ teachings and parables refer to money and stewardship
- Speaking of reverence, humility, and contentment in the Old Testament it is said whoever loves money never has enough; and whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless (*Ecclesiastes 5:10*)
- Jesus’ meeting with the rich young man illustrates how easily money and material comforts become impediments to living the God-centered life Jesus offers us. (*Matthew 19:16-30*)



4. How do I decide how much to give?

*“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

SEEK:

God’s guidance in making your plan; God challenges us to make a difference, and God upholds us as we seek to do God’s will.

REFLECT:

On what Bradley Hills means to you as a community in God’s Kingdom and as a place to live out our Christian Faith through service in the world.

CONSIDER:

Ways we can glorify God, grow closer and reach farther as we build on our traditions.

5. How much do people at Bradley Hills give?

“Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9

ANNUAL PLEDGES:

- Pledged income accounts for approximately 70% of total church income.
- Pledged income has increased the past five years
- The church encourages every member or household to make a financial commitment for the calendar year. If you give but have not pledged to the church, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge this year, providing even more reliable support for the church and its ministries.



6. I already give to Bradley Hills, but I am hesitant about making a pledge. Why should I?

“And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever, Amen.” Philippians 4:19-20

- Pledges from members and friends are the *only* way that Session and the Lay Ministries can set a responsible budget for the coming year that makes our shared ministry possible.
- From our total pledged income, church leaders must determine how much we can increase our mission giving, how to compensate our staff, and how to plan for current and future maintenance of our building and grounds.
- Without your financial commitment, these vital decisions are more difficult to make.
- Pledged contributions from members and friends make up about 70% of church income.
- Pledge what you feel comfortable committing in advance. If your income is variable, base your pledge on a conservative estimate. If your income eventually exceeds the estimate, make an additional gift toward the end of the year from the added income.
- Pledging at Bradley Hills is completely confidential. The *only* person who knows what you pledge, besides yourself, is the Manager of Financial Services. No lay ministry members, and no other staff members, have access to individual pledge amounts.

7. I'm on a fixed income. What am I expected to pledge?

“All shall give as they are able, according to the blessings of the Lord your God that he has given you.” Deuteronomy 16:17

PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

- No one should ever feel compelled to pledge money needed to cover basic expenses. Set aside what you need for known expenses, and a reasonable contingency for the unexpected, then pledge a portion of the remainder.



8. I give to other worthwhile causes. Isn't this stewardship? Why should I also make an annual pledge to BHPC?

"Some give freely yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched and one who gives water will get water." Proverbs 11:24-25

YOUR PLEDGE:

- Is the primary support for all our essential ministries -- worship, education, mission, outreach and connection.
- Covers critical expenses -- staff compensation, utilities, and building maintenance -- without which we could not function as a congregation
- Is the foundation for the direct and indirect forms of support for all of our ministries.
- Is a member's primary giving relationship with the church, through which we have the best opportunity to further God's purposes for our lives and for our world. As previously discussed, we encourage givers to offer at least half of their tithe or annual giving to the church and support other causes with the other half. In addition, the Session adopts a budget each year that includes direct gifts to non-church groups locally, nationally, and internationally.

9. I know money is important, but what about my gifts of time and talent?

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

- These gifts offered by so many members and friends are just as essential as financial support, and are encouraged and celebrated through outreach efforts throughout the year
- Without the countless hours of time contributed by Sunday School teachers, choir members, ushers, lay ministry members -- by nearly every member and friend in one more or more roles -- Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church simply could not exist
- The church, its members, and its missions thrive when we recognize our fundamental need to give support through our time, talent, *and* treasure.
- Thank you for all you do as a part of the Bradley Hills community.
- Our giving grows out of gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ and our desire to serve Him.

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