



OFFERING TALK

Together we do more to light the path

Scripture Passage: Matthew 25: 1-13 (NRSV)

As part of the United Methodist connection, our gifts stretch far beyond this congregation. We heard some of those examples this morning.

Our community of love touches lives around the world. **Together we shine a light into the shadows of despair, poverty, and oppression.**

We brighten communities through initiatives like education, leadership development, and disaster response.

Are we willing to be like the wise bridesmaids? Will we prepare ourselves with lamps full of oil to light the way for the empire of Jesus?

Keeping the lights on in this congregation allows us to (adapt for your context):

Provide meals for xxxx number of people each week.

Offer Christian education for xxx children.

Send a team to work on xxx mission.

Engage in joyful and prayerful worship.

Each dollar that is offered through our church **joins with others' and makes it possible to brighten lives around the world.** The United Methodist structure of connectionalism began as a means of accomplishing the mission of spreading scriptural holiness.

Connectional giving demonstrates that goal by connecting the faithful giving of all United Methodists. **The impact of 12.6 million United Methodists' giving helps make a difference**



outside the walls of congregations locally and globally through food ministries, clothing ministries, rebuilding lives, building hospitals and schools, funding scholarships and reaching out to communities.

Please prayerfully consider your role in keeping the lamps lit and your commitment to adding more light to the path.

I pray that in your discernment you will experience God's presence in a way that helps you prepare to respond in faith - not from what is left over, but from the abundance of light and love that God has given you.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for **continuing to shine brightly and lighting the way for the coming of God's realm.** As we use our light to spark the lamp of another's we begin to illuminate the Divine Love among us.

May your lamps shine brightly, lighting the way for Jesus Christ so that all who you meet will know his love.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®