

Storage **FACILITIES**



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Offering & Tithes

Offering TALK#2

TITLE: Storage Facilities

Scripture Passage: Matthew 6:19 (NRSV)



We'll be worshipping God with our giving in just a few minutes. If you haven't yet prepared your gift, feel free to do so now. If you've already given online, thank you for your generosity.

Did you know there are more than 50,000 storage facilities around the world? They go by many names: U-store, Self-store, you name it -- it seems we see them everywhere these days. We have plenty of options for keeping all of our stuff secure.

Did you also know there's a reason we seem to see those storage facilities everywhere? 46,000 of them -- more than 90% -- are right here in the United States! Most of the rest of the world doesn't seem to be nearly as concerned about storing up their possessions.

We even make television shows like Spike TV's Auction Hunters and the wildly popular A&E show Storage Wars and about stuff that has been stored and then abandoned. Yet it seems the more STUFF we get, the more we want to store away.

But Jesus guides us with these words, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;" (NRSV Matthew 6:19)

What if, instead of building bigger storage facilities to hold the things God has given us, we invested in relationships and loving acts of kindness and mercy?

What if we used His resources to help those most in need, instead of hoarding it all for ourselves?

What if our generous giving became a conduit through which God's love could flow to a hurting world?

As we prepare to give today, let's ask ourselves this question: Does God's blessing pass through us or just stop with us?

One thing is certain -- no storage space could ever be big enough to contain His love if we let it flow to others through our own generous giving.

As the ushers come this morning, I invite you to give generously so God's love may flow through you so you may find lasting treasure that needs no earthly storage container.

Abbreviated **VERSION**

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Scripture Passage: Matthew 6:19 (NRSV)

We'll be worshipping God with our giving in just a few minutes, but first, something to consider.

Did you know that 90% of the world's self-storage units are here in the US?

Compared to the rest of the world, we seem to be concerned about storing up our possessions.

But Jesus tells us, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;" (NRSV Matthew 6:19)

Does God's blessing pass *through* us or just stop *with* us?

What if our generous giving became a conduit through which God's love could flow to a hurting world?

As the ushers come this morning, I invite you to give generously so that you may find lasting treasure that needs no earthly storage.

Bullet Points

VERSION

TITLE: Storage Facilities

Scripture Passage: Matthew 6:19 (NRSV)

- Prepare to worship God with our giving.
- More than 50,000 self-storage units around the world; 46,000 of them are in the US
- We seem concerned about storing up possessions; the more we get, the more we want to store.
- Jesus says, “ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;” (NRSV Matthew 6:19)
- What if we:
- Invested in relationships/loving acts of mercy instead of bigger storage facilities?
- Used His resources to help those in need instead of hoarding it for ourselves?
- Gave generously, so we could become a conduit for God’s love in a hurting world?
- **Does God’s blessing pass *through* us or just stop *with* us?**
- Give generously so you may find lasting treasure that needs no earthly storage facility.



- Choose a way your local church is involved in looking out for the interests of others and highlight it as an example of how your local church is putting God's interests first.
- You can connect this illustration with God's global interests by sharing how your church's local giving multiplies through connectional giving with The United Methodist Church:

Our vital **World Service Fund** is the financial lifeline to a long list of Christian mission and ministry throughout the denomination. Our giving helps to build new churches, prepare clergy and lay leaders, continue cooperation with other faith traditions, advocates for peace and justice, and much more.

<http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/the-world-service-fund>

Through **The Advance**, you can designate support for projects related to the General Board of Global Ministries. One hundred percent of every gift goes to the project you select because administrative costs come from other sources such as the World Service Fund.

<http://www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/the-advance>