



Every heart matters.
Every gift counts.

www.guilfordcollegeumc.org



**GUILFORD COLLEGE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

2026
STEWARDSHIP

*"Guard the good treasure entrusted to you,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us."*

-II Timothy 1:14

At Guilford College UMC, we seek to serve Christ and glorify God by being faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us: including our Time, our Talents, and our Treasures. Being the Body of Christ and fulfilling our Calling takes all of us—

Every Heart Matters. Every Gift Counts.



TIME

“My times are in your hand...”

Psalm 31:15

Our TIME may be the most precious resource that any of us have been given. The average earthly life-span for us mortal human beings is around 28,500 hours. So much depends on how we “spend” those hours. At GCUMC, we recognize that our time on earth is a gift given to us by God. In the words of the Psalmist, our times are in God’s hands. We seek to make the most of this gift by devoting our time to the things and to the people that matter most – *specifically to loving God, to loving our neighbors, and to loving God’s world.*

So we reserve time for *worship*, for *prayer*, and for the study of the Scriptures. We donate time towards helping others, by going on *mission trips*, *bagging potatoes*, *setting up homes for refugees*, *helping a child to read*, *assisting a newcomer in learning English*, or *holding the hand of a nursing home resident*. And we invest time in simply being together, enjoying each other’s presence over meals, in God’s creation, and in shared laughter.

One alternate way to spell “love” is T-I-M-E – because that which we most truly love, is that which we most devote our time to. The most precious gift we can offer to God and to each other is our time – how are you spending yours? Because it’s not just every gift that counts – *every second counts, too.*



TALENTS



*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”
-1 Peter 4:10*



God has made every one of us unique. We all have different things that we are good at, specific **TALENTS** that have been entrusted to us. Some of us can sing. Some of us can study. Some of us can kick a soccer ball. Some of us can play the violin. Some of us can fix a door handle. Others of us can fix supper. Some of us are good listeners. Others of us are good talkers. Some among us can make spreadsheets. Others can make quilts. Some among us can run. Some can run a meeting. Others can run a soundboard. Some of us feel most at home on-stage – others of us cherish working behind the curtain. Some of us know how to make children feel welcomed – others of us know how to make the elderly feel cared for.

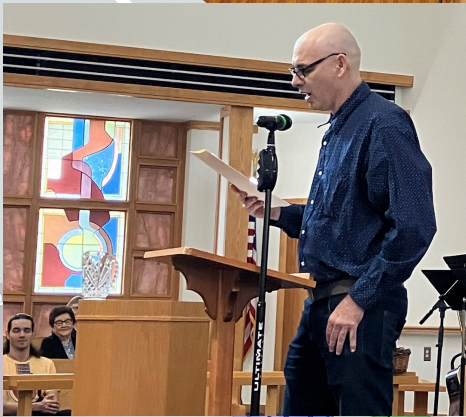
The Scriptures teach us that whatever gifts or skills or sets of knowledge that we possess are not given to us merely for our own enjoyment: they are intended to be shared. *Talents only find their fulfillment when they serve the common good, and when they point back to their ultimate Source, to the Giver of every good and perfect gift.*

Each talent is an individual piece of a much larger puzzle. None of us is sufficient on our own. We need each other. We need the talents which others offer – and they need the talents we have to give. What are your talents? And how are you offering them to God and others through the church? *Because every heart matters. And every gift counts.*



**Cada corazón importa.
Cada regalo cuenta.**





TREASURES

*“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.” -Matthew 6:21*

In **adventure stories** and fairy tales, **TREASURES** are prized riches which are hoarded by dragons or pursued by pirates. But for the followers of Jesus, treasures are something else- something at the same time more dangerous, and yet more beautiful.

The Scriptures teach us that treasures can be either distracting temptations or profound sources of blessing. The difference lies in what we do with the treasures we have been given. If all we do is pile them up and protect them, our treasures will imprison us - our treasure chest will become the cramped lockbox of our obsessive hearts.

But if we leave our treasure chests wide open and freely give our treasures away, we discover the freedom and the joy of sharing in God's provision for the world. *It is such God-inspired generosity that powers so much of what we do at GCUMC, and so much of what you see in these pages.* God takes the offerings that we make and the gifts that we give, and, through a kind of holy alchemy, transforms those treasures into a different type of even more precious treasure: they become faith, hope, love, peace, and strength for others. In the process of engaging in such giving, we not only receive the satisfaction of having done good- we also grow closer to God.

Jesus taught us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also – that where our treasure goes, there our hearts will follow. Offering our treasures back to God is one way we plant our hearts in God as well. What are you doing with your treasures?

Because Every Heart Matters, and Every Gift Counts.
Porqué cada corazón importa. Cada regalo cuenta.







THANKSGIVING

*“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.”
-II Corinthians 4:15*

The Scriptures suggest that the end result and ultimate purpose of the grace-inspired, faithful stewardship of our **TIME, TALENTS, and TREASURE is THANKSGIVING.** Our giving gives us grateful hearts. Not only that, it causes expressions of thanksgiving to overflow all around us, like geysers of gratitude pointing to the ultimate glory of God. In that Spirit, we truly THANK GOD for you and for all that you do to glorify God, to increase thanksgiving, and to make our church the special community that it is.

Every Heart Matters. Every Gift Counts. Including YOURS!
¡Porque cada corazón importa y cada regalo cuenta,
incluido el tuyo!



Every heart matters.
Every gift counts.