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### **A Letter From Our Pastor**

**THE BLESSING:** Frequently and not surprisingly I often get the following questions from friends outside of our congregation: "So, how are things going at your church?" [As they lean in hoping for some interesting gossip but trying not to be too obvious about it...] "Are you happy there?"

It is an incredible blessing to be able to repeatedly give an answer that is always some version of the following: "It's going phenomenally well! The congregation has been a blessing to me, to Jennifer, and really to our entire family. Of course we have challenges because that's just the reality of life, but overall we are truly blessed by God and to be with such amazing people!"

**THE CHALLENGE:** As wonderful and exciting and as vibrant as our PEOPLE are, our BUILDING has aged and grown tired. Some of us may not notice it but many of us do, and new people often compliment the building but also notice its challenges. Some are as basic as worn walls or carpet and knowing where to park, where to enter, where to leave, and how to get from "here to there" (especially if low-mobility.) The building needs a facelift to help it shine as energetically as the hearts of our people!

So, we're calling the campaign SERVE because as we "Love God, Love People, Serve Both," we want to enable the building to better help us serve our current and future members for years to come!

Thank you for prayerfully considering how God will empower you to generously support us through this campaign. People of today and the generations to come are counting on us!



### Why SERVE?

For nearly 200 years Jesus has always remained faithful to our church and to each member over those many years. Through times of great joy and times of great burden, our church has always been faithful and filled with a passion to **SERVE.** Through his grace, guidance and wisdom, we have served our community and each other with salvation and love. Yet our passion to serve also extends to people and places across our great country and to destinations across the globe. It is who we are as faithful and humble followers of Jesus Christ.

Not unlike the past, today Jesus has once again chosen us to continue His vision for Cornerstone.

One may ask why us and why now? The only true answer is God knows!

Through our **SERVE** campaign we want to transform our physical building to become as energized as our people are for fulfilling God's mission in service.

We envision a day when every person in our surrounding community has had a reason to find and utilize our building, and in each experience **here** has witnessed the abundance of God's love that permeates throughout Cornerstone.

We equally envision a day when thousands of others, whether near or far, through technological connections, will be able to experience the salvation of Jesus Christ **here.** 

This can and will most certainly happen as we empower our people to be able to **SERVE** even greater through an updated and renovated church that has withstood the test of time.

At Cornerstone we seek to 'Love God, Love People, and Serve Both.' Thanks to the generosity of our Cornerstone family, which continues to grow every week, through our "SERVE" renovation campaign we are ready to once again begin yet another chapter of service to God. In this new chapter we will continue to bless our community in ways that will amaze generations to come.

Please join us on our journey to **SERVE!** 





### The Beginning

1827

Church began as a small group of Methodist Christians gathered for prayer and Bible study.

### **Last Renovation**

1998

Last major church renovation.

**Evaluation** 

2022-24

Refresh Team gathered input and created master list of possible renovation needs.

### **Implementation**

2024-25

Refresh Team replaced with Building Committee for architectural design and construction, and Generosity Team for capital campaign funding development.

#### **SERVE**

2025

From October through November we will go live with the public phase of the SERVE capital campaign.

### **Commitment Sunday**

11/23/25

On this Sunday the SERVE capital campaign will culminate with a day of individual commitment.

### **Project Approval**

December 2025

All church vote to move forward with the project and funding arrangements.

### Independence

2023

In January of this year we became "Global Methodist" and now the congregation owns the property free and clear.

### **Renovation Begins**

2026

In January we begin to receive pledged funding and the renovation begins.

### **SERVE Completion**

2028

Receive final funding from the SERVE capital campaign, as we serve the community powerfully with our renovated building!





### What Is SERVE?

#### What are we doing?

Based on extensive input and planning, we plan to renovate the current facilities in the following ways:

- Children's Ministry (nursery 4th grade) will all be on the second floor, new children's welcome center, nursery, and toddler room with restroom.
- New sensory room for children with special needs.
- Refresh the other children & preschool rooms.
- New restrooms on same level as sanctuary, and a new family restroom near BFLC entrance.
- Improve and update the BFLC entrance.
- New elevator to sanctuary from Court St.
- Improved directional signage.
- New cafe with plumbing & two new first floor gathering areas and a multi-use room with natural light.
- Refreshed youth ministry rooms.
- Traditional Sanctuary upgrades including new seating, renovated stage with handrails and movable pulpit, improved flooring and lighting, balcony, bell choir loft safety improvements, and wooden wall enhancements,
- Newcomer hospitality improvements including better exterior and interior signage, fresh paint, new flooring, safety & security enhancements.
- Kitchen ventilation and electric power improvements.
- Office space renovations.
- Chapel enhancements for usage as Prayer Room.

#### Why are we doing it?

- To SERVE God
- To SERVE Children & Families
- To SERVE Low-Mobility Friends
- To SERVE Youth and all Adults in & outside of the Church

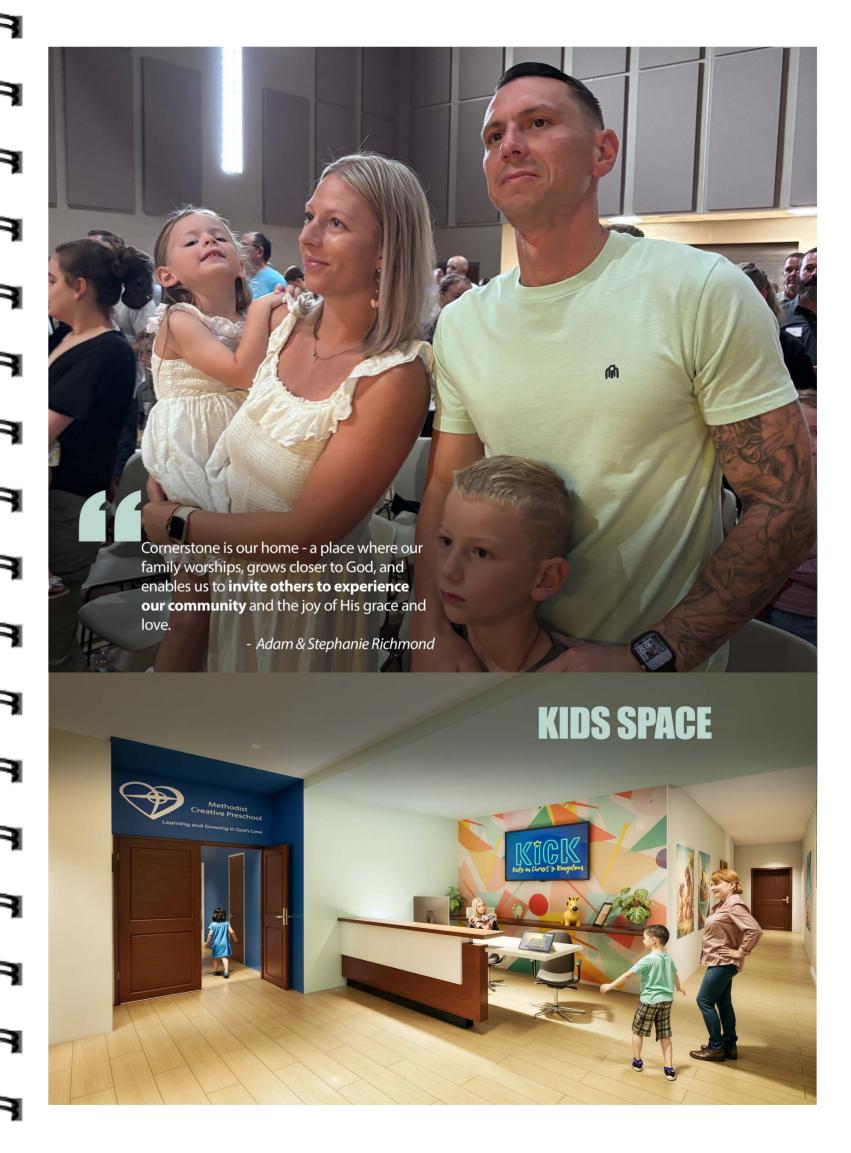
#### Why are we doing it now?

- The church is growing, and we need to improve our building's ability to minister to everyone.
- It's time for us to update our building to match the energy and calling of our people. God has chosen us to serve our community on His behalf, and we have that opportunity to do so with these updated building remodels.
- If we don't do updates as a big, intentional, capital campaign project we'll be 'nickel and diming' it piecemeal month after month trying to do updates and repairs.



















### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### When should we anticipate construction will begin?

We are currently in the process of obtaining financial and prayerful commitment to this project through the SERVE campaign. These 2 important commitments by the membership must be in place in order to determine the full scope and feasibility of the project. Once we are assured of that support, the professing members must vote to approve the project. This vote is planned for December of 2025. Once the project is approved by our membership, we will work with the contractor to determine when the project could begin, which could hopefully be sometime in 2026. We estimate the construction to take around 9 months to a year once it begins.

### How will our ability to worship and do ministry be impacted during construction?

There is no doubt that construction can be disruptive and inconvenient, and it will likely impact everyone in the church in some way. We will work with the contractor to attempt to minimize that impact by determining which areas of the church will need to be closed and how other areas can remain open and be best utilized to serve our congregation during construction. We do not anticipate needing to shut down the entire building for this project.

## Will we make any changes to the exterior of the building? Are we adding any square footage?

There are no changes to the exterior of the building in this project. However, the exterior signage will likely be updated. We are not adding any new square footage to the building.

## What changes are being made to increase accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges?

Improving accessibility for everyone is one of the top priorities of this project! We want EVERYONE to have access and feel welcome in every part of the building. To that end, we are adding a new elevator, new restrooms in several areas of the building, and seating in the sanctuary that can be easily adapted to accommodate any need. New signage will also be added to assist with navigation throughout the building.

## I love the feel of our traditional sanctuary. Will that be changed to a more contemporary design?

NO! Although changes and updates will be made to the sanctuary, maintaining the traditional feel of this space is a high priority. Many of the proposed changes are necessary for safety reasons, such as the improved railings on the balcony, bell choir loft, and to the altar area. The large pulpits will be removed to allow for more usable space in that area, and will be replaced by a movable, traditional style pulpit. This change will also improve visibility to the organ and piano, which will remain where they are. Seating will be replaced and updated, but the exact style of seating has not been determined yet. We are hoping to add back some of the beautiful stained-glass windows that were previously removed to enhance the beauty of our traditional sanctuary.

## There are other areas of the building that need updating but are not part of this project. How and when will those areas be improved?

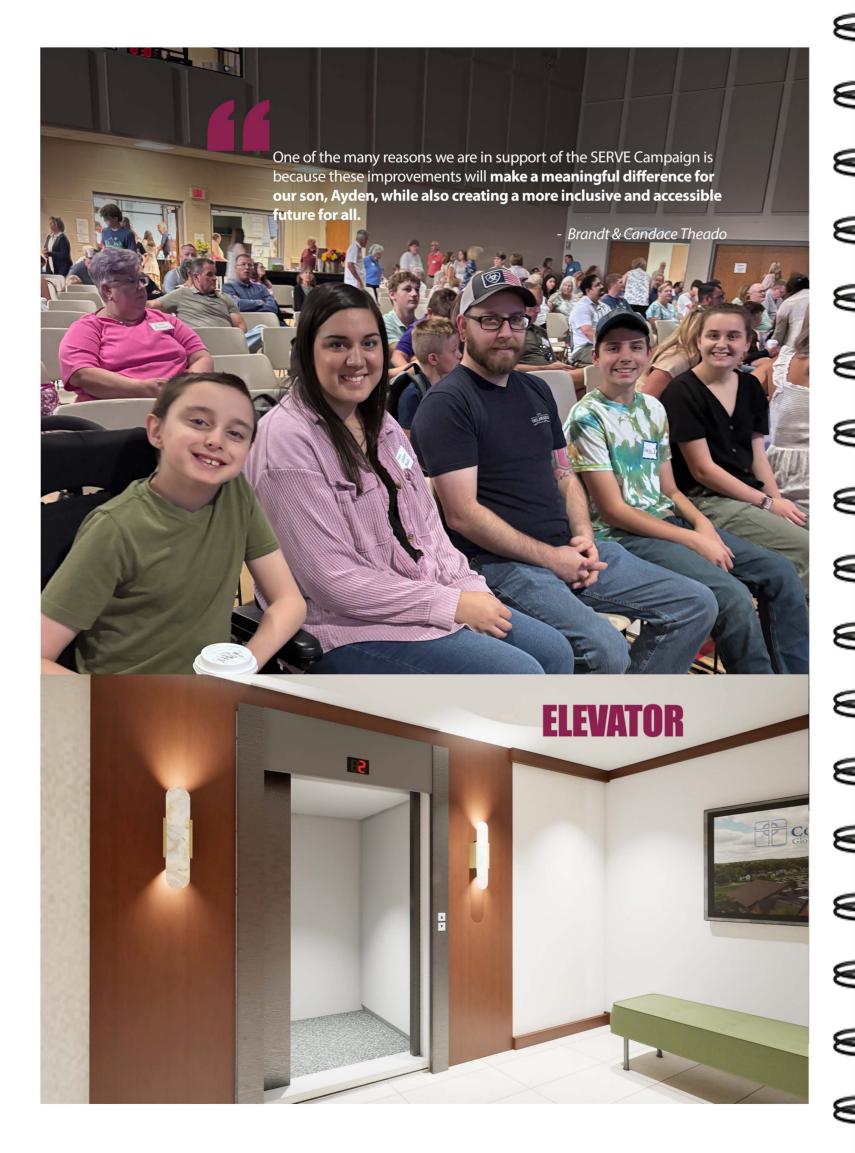
These ongoing improvement projects will be budgeted and completed through the Facilities Maintenance Team over the next few years as the annual budget and designated giving allows. Some areas being considered are the floor in the BFLC, adult Sunday School classrooms, kitchen updates, etc.

## If there is a particular part of this project that is especially important to me, can I designate that my gift be used toward that part of the project?

We appreciate that certain aspects of this project will be more pertinent to some individuals than to others. But we also want you to appreciate all the thought, prayer, and planning that have gone into creating this proposal in order to create the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people. Every aspect has been carefully considered through the lens of how it can best serve the people of our church and our community. Therefore, we would ask for your support for the overall project if possible. If, however, you desire to designate your donation to a specific portion of this project, we will try to accommodate that request. Please contact the Financial Development Director (greg@ourcornerstone.org) with your request.

## still have questions. Where can I get more information or submit a uestion?

Hopefully the information in this booklet has answered many of your questions and helped you catch a vision of what God can do through our generosity. More information is available by clicking on the SERVE link on the church website (ourcornerstone.org). Questions may be submitted by emailing info@ourcornerstone.org. Questions will be forwarded to the appropriate person to provide an answer to you. You can also call the church office at 937-642-4712 and the staff will be happy to assist you. Thank you again for your interest in and support of this important and exciting project.





### **Message Series**

The following pages provide an opportunity to **dive deeper into living a generous life.** Bring this booklet to church each week and let it serve as a starting point for your personal generosity journey, conversations in your home, and discussions at Cornerstone. Pastor Nathan's messages between October 26 and November 16 will follow the four passages over the next few pages included in this booklet.

Interspersed with the messages are sections of **questions**, **spaces for notes**, **and tools** designed to help you take the next steps that God is leading you towards.

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.
42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

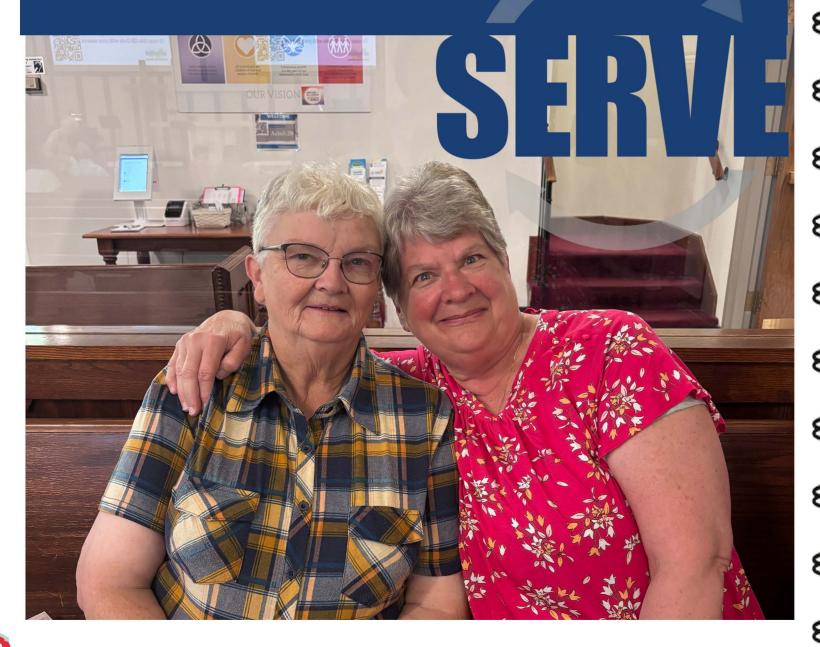
43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, **this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.** 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Mark 12:41-44

# Week 1 Message LOVE GOD "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..." - Mark 12:28-31

Cornerstone's Vision: Love God, Love People, Serve Both

**Prayer:** "Father, You are our Guide leading us to work together to follow Your will to pursue our vision. Please unify us with courage and purpose to first love You with our passion, prayer, intelligence, and energy, as we strive to then love others. Amen."



### **MARK 12:28-31**

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength: 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Say What?		
Do What?		
Now What?		



## **Combined Stewardship Plan**

The SERVE renovation campaign and our traditional annual STEWARDSHIP campaign will run concurrently beginning this year and continuing through 2028. These campaigns are critical and essential to our church both today and well into the future. Our annual stewardship giving is approximately \$1.5 million, while the serve campaign is seeking \$6.0 million in contributions. As such we are asking that as you prayerfully consider each campaign, please consider the following.

#### **Annual Stewardship Campaign:**

The giving of regular "tithes and offerings" is what funds the ongoing operations of our church as well as our programs and ministries. It is the financial soul of Cornerstone which must remain strong and growing. As important as the SERVE renovation campaign is to our church, it cannot be the cause of a reduction in our annual stewardship funding. In fact, our strong faithful stewardship giving and tithing allows us to even consider the renovation and updating of our church building.

2026 Stewardship Commitment Card — excel in everything  I / We make the following financial commitment for the 2026-operating budget of  Cornerstone Global Methodist Church:  Cornerstone Global Methodist Church:  I plan to give Monthly, Weekly, Other interval.	
Name(s) (please print)	

#### **SERVE Renovation Campaign**

This campaign will require us to give over and above our stewardship giving. It is not about equal gifts; it is about equal sacrifice and generosity giving. We understand this campaign is asking much of our congregation, yet this congregation has consistently demonstrated their unwavering support to Cornerstone.

While the SERVE campaign is based on a 3-year commitment (2026 – 2028), everyone is encouraged to consider starting their contributions this year. Whether making a one-time gift or spreading your gift over 4 years, contributions received in 2025 are very beneficial in helping to reduce the amount of a necessary construction loan, which reduces our expenses.



So where are you on your personal generosity journey? Wherever you are, simply take the next step God leads you to take without pressure or condemnation. Whatever your financial situation may be and whereever you may be on your spiritual journey, we will sincerely value your level of support to the stewardship campaign and to the serve campaign. All we ask is to trust God to lead.

# Week 2 Message | LOVE PEOPLE "Love your neighbor as yourself." - Luke 10:25-29

**Cornerstone's Vision:** Love God, Love People, Serve Both

**Prayer:** "O God, You are the Creator of each and every person! Thank You for Jesus' example to accept and love all individuals—poor, wealthy, misunderstood, disabled, addicted, non-believers, orphans, the forgotten, varied life-style choices — just as we would accept and love our next door neighbor. Show and teach us how to be like Jesus as we love those for whom He died to save. Amen."



### **LUKE 10:25-29**

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself." 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Say What?			
Do What?			
Now What?			

### **GENEROSITY TOOLS**

As you look over and study the Gift Profile Guide shown on the facing page, there are several important points to reflect upon, and for some, they bear repeating.

**Every gift is truly a blessing that is treasured.** It demonstrates not only support for the SERVE campaign, but more importantly, a commitment to our Cornerstone church. The success of this campaign rests with the overwhelming support of our whole church.

**Equal sacrifice and generosity giving is the foundation of this campaign.** It is not and cannot be about equal gifts, as everyone is in a different point in their life, which is fully recognized and respected.

**Respect of personal privacy is of paramount importance.** With the same level of confidentiality practiced with stewardship giving, all gifts to the SERVE campaign will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality.

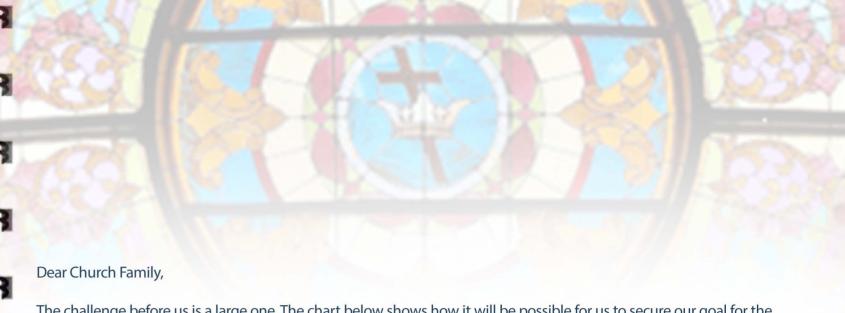
**Earlier giving compounds the gift.** While the SERVE campaign is based on 3 years (2026 – 2028), giving in advance or front loading your total gift helps reduce the amount of borrowing and the associated interest expense.

**Support for the campaign can be through a variety of gifts.** From cash and securities to property and other asset types, the staff of Cornerstone are prepared to work with you on whatever type of campaign support works best for you. Please feel free to reach out to Greg Williams, our Financial Development Director. greg@ourcornerstone.org or (937) 642-4712.

**Some giving has tax advantages.** As you evaluate what type of giving works best with your personal financial situation, you may want to discuss the matter with a financial professional. This person can best advise you regarding tax implications involving charitable donations including a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" from an IRA account.

**Pace-setting gifts advance the whole project.** As the name implies, such gifts set the pace and significantly impact the overall success of the campaign. Without several substantial gifts, it is simply not feasible to raise the necessary funds for this renovation project without a long, expensive and drawn-out campaign.

As you and your family, as applicable, prayerfully consider your level of generosity support, we respectfully ask you to also deeply reflect upon the impact this SERVE campaign can have across our own members and well into our community. This is a "Point-in-Time" request for sacrificial giving. While short in length of time, the impact of this campaign will be felt for generations to come. Again we ask, please join us on our journey to SERVE!



The challenge before us is a large one. The chart below shows how it will be possible for us to secure our goal for the SERVE Campaign. The chart reveals that even with the large task God has given us, it is possible to move forward. It also shows that **every commitment makes a difference.** 

As you look at the guide, your eyes will likely settle first on the level you have been considering for our campaign. You can see how that commitment will strengthen our faith family and enable us to press forward with our vision.

However, before you make a commitment on Commitment Sunday, I would ask you to pray about moving at least one line up on the chart. Only you know if that step is possible, but I encourage you to open your heart in the coming days to that possibility and let God shape your response.

I am thankful to be on this journey with you.

**Pastor Nathan** 

### <u>Three year gift calculator</u>

Total 3-Year Commitment	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
\$500,000	\$166,667	\$13,889	\$3,205
\$250,000	\$83,333	\$6,944	\$1,603
\$100,000	\$33,333	\$2,778	\$641
\$75,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481
\$50,000	\$16,667	\$1,389	\$321
\$36,000	\$12,000	\$1,000	\$231
\$24,000	\$8,000	\$667	\$154
\$15,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$96
\$10,000	\$3,333	\$278	\$64
\$7,200	\$2,400	\$200	\$46
\$3,600	\$1,200	\$100	\$23

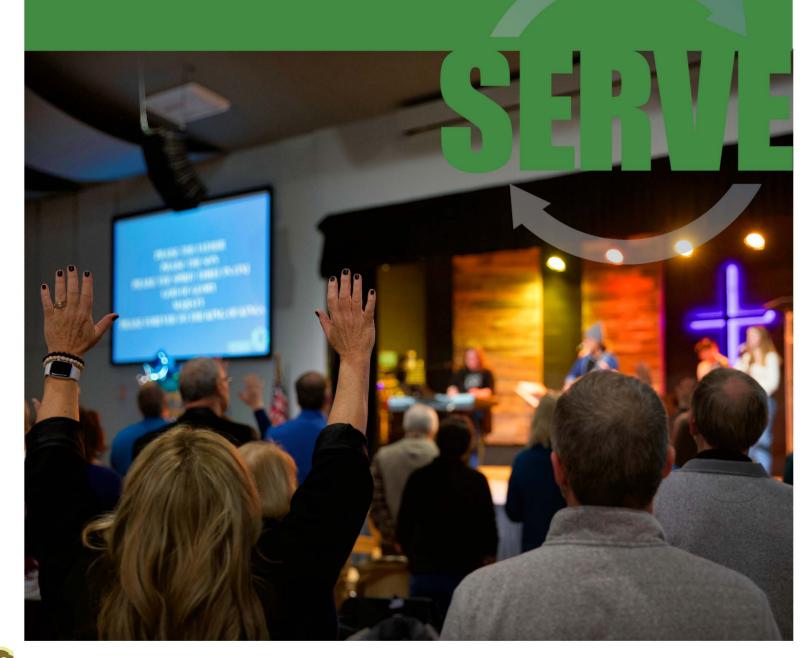
This giving schedule is for quick calculation of weekly, monthly, and yearly giving.

No one should feel confined to this schedule.

# Week 3 Message | SERVE GOD "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.." - Matthew 4:8-11

**Cornerstone's Vision:** Love God, Love People, Serve Both

**Prayer:** "Lord, we can become so wrapped up with our busyness and worldly distractions. May we as a church family resolve and dedicate ourselves to encourage and exhort one another to SERVE You with single-heartedness and WORSHIP ONLY YOU!" Amen."



### **MATTHEW 4:8-11**

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'[a]"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Say What?			
Do What?			
Now What?			

# Week 4 Message | SERVE PEOPLE "...do to others what you would have them do to you." - Matthew 7:9-12

Cornerstone's Vision: Love God, Love People, Serve Both

Prayer: "Thank You, Jesus, for teaching each of us to ask ourselves, 'What do I want people to do to me?' and 'How do I want to be treated?' – and then to grab the initiative and DO IT FOR OTHERS! Oh, Christ, help us to serve You by serving people with lives that are meant to be shared. Amen."



### **MATTHEW 7:9-12**

9"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Say What?		
Do What?		
Now What?		

# Week 5 Message | SERVE GOD & PEOPLE "...you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:1-8

Cornerstone's Vision: Love God, Love People, Serve Both

**Prayer:** "God the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit: We accept your promised Three-In-One-leadership and therefore we: ask for and receive the power of the Holy Spirit; embrace Your transformation of our hearts and lives; and serve You and people by being witnesses of Your love and inviting people to worship You! Amen."



### **ACTS 1:1-8**

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Say What?			
Do What?			
Now What?			