

Worship and Witness through Giving: An Alternative to Empty Offering Plates

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Synod of the Rocky Mountains**

Why should we worry about empty offering plates?

What does an empty offering plate convey to our children and visitors? With so many of our faithful members giving their offerings on regular—but not weekly—schedules, the offering plate can be almost empty! What does this teach our children about the importance of giving? How can we witness to our commitment while making the weekly time of offering a more meaningful part of worship?



One option is to make green “Worship and Witness through Giving” cards and place them in the pew racks with the envelopes, visitor information cards, etc.. Invite your members to place one of these cards in the offering plate as an active, visible sign of worship and witness. Either that, or put in some money! These cards provide something to “do” in worship in between the times of using their pledge envelope. Because they are not dated, the cards may be placed by in the pew racks and used week after week. That’s Good Stewardship!

Will some people abuse this by putting a card in the plate without ongoing support? Of course they will! They are the same folks who presently put in empty offering envelopes. Will everyone use them? Of course not! But those who care about training your children and interpreting your church to visitors will jump on the chance! Here’s one way to do it:

Information in Bulletin under “Offering”:

“If you give your pledge, tithe and offering on a non-weekly basis (monthly, quarterly, etc.), please place one of the green “Worship and Witness through Giving” cards in the offering plate as your act of worship and witness for today. We do this as a way to teach our children by word and example the importance of giving in worship.”

Printing on Front of Card:

Worship and Witness through Giving

*In gratitude to God for grace and countless blessings,
I regularly support the ministry of our church with my contributions.
Please accept this card today as my act of worship and witness.*

Thanks be to God!

Printing on Back of Card:

Thanks be to God!

(Most people will place this side up in the offering plate.)

These samples were designed by Chuck, an eleven-year-old Presbyterian from Cortex, CO.
Thanks, Chuck!

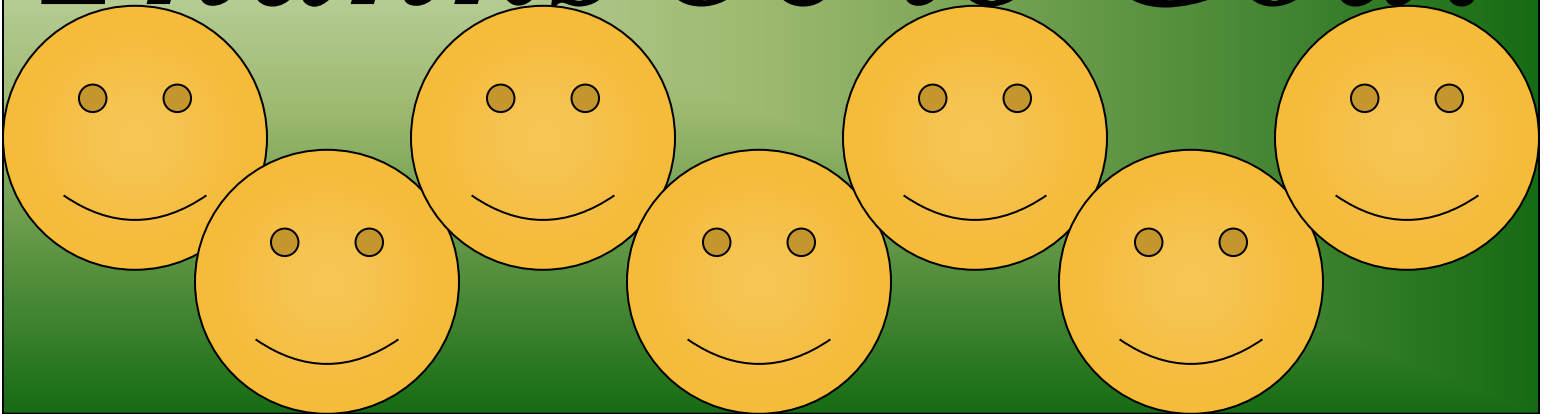
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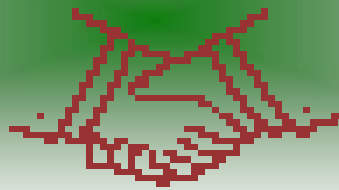
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