

Nov 23, 2025

Sermon: Tangible Grace — The Miracle of Our Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6–15 (NRSVUE)

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Through the testing of this ministry, you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

*This is the Word of God for the people of God! Thanks be to God!

Friends, I love that our **Commitment Sunday** and **Thanksgiving Sunday** fall together each year—because they really do belong together. Gratitude and generosity are two sides of the same coin. One leads naturally to the other. When we give thanks to God, we can’t help but want to give something back.

This week, many of us will gather around tables filled with food & family, laughter and love. But before we ever lift a fork, we’ll pause to give thanks—to name the blessings that remind us of God’s goodness.

Today, we do that here in worship. We give thanks for the miracles everywhere—the *grace* of God made real & tangible—that flows thru this church, through your lives, and through every courageous act of giving that makes ministry and life in this crazy world possible.

And today as we bring this *Miracles Everywhere* series to a close—we arrive at this final sermon: **Tangible Grace**. The miracle of our giving. I chose the word “tangible” because it’s an adjective that means “clear and definite. Real.” The origin root in Latin means “to touch”. Tangible grace. Clear and definite grace. Real grace. Touchable grace.

The miracle of our giving, indeed in all the ways we give—of time, talent, gifts, service, and money—sure right here at FMC, but also in our communities, workplace, school, and

families...are ALL examples of touchable grace. God's love made real and tangible. Miracles everywhere.

If we look at today's 2nd letter from Paul to the believers in Corinth, it's important to remember that Paul is writing the church to encourage their participation in a collection...a financial collection...for believers in Jerusalem who are struggling in poverty. He reminds them that giving is not just about meeting material needs—it's about joining in the work of God's grace.

He uses **the image of sowing and reaping**: generosity is like planting seeds—talk about hands on, touchable grace! When we give freely—in real and tangible ways—God multiplies those gifts...abundantly in material blessings, and also in the spiritual harvest of gratitude & thanksgiving.

During our Community Trunk or Treat in October, I watched a little girl in a Unicorn Princess costume, (she was fabulous) who had enthusiastically circled all 23 trunks and NOW was waiting patiently online for a hot dog and pretzel, tug on her mom's sleeve and say, "*They don't even know me—and they're being so nice!*"

Friends, that's what grace looks like when it takes on flesh. That's what *miracles everywhere* means.

~It's compassion made visible.

~It's connection and love made real & tangible through laughter, smiles,
a unicorn princess, candy, and hot dogs. **That's touchable grace!**

Friends, it's not hard to see miracles everywhere when loving gratitude is put into action. It's faith that becomes food for the hungry, love that becomes service, and gratitude that becomes generosity. Paul's words could have been written to us right here at FMC: "God is able to provide you...(each and everyone of you)...with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, **you** may share abundantly in every good work."

That's exactly what we've witnessed this past year—God providing **through you**...multiplying blessings, transforming what we give into miracles. Because of **your** generosity and faithfulness, FMC is in a stronger financial position than we were a year ago. You have sown seeds of generosity—and God has been faithful to bring a harvest.

This year alone, your giving has made miracles possible:

- **Families are fed** every month through the Moorestown Food Pantries, the Neighborhood Center, Eyes of Our Heart, and Seeds of Hope—feeding not just bodies, but souls with hope and dignity.
- **Our mission reach extends** across miles and nations through the Appalachia Service Project and seven international missionaries serving around the world.

- **Our youth and family ministries are thriving**—with 8 confirmands having begun their journey of faith and the search of a new part-time Youth Director to join our team to help guide the next generation.
- **Our community outreach events have touched over 1,200 neighbors** this fall through the Apple Festival and Trunk or Treat—moments of joy, welcome, and connection that embody Christ’s hospitality.
- **Our worship—traditional & contemporary—online & in-person continues to draw people** into the presence of God, uniting our voices in praise & thanksgiving, as we all grow in faith each week.

Friends, *that’s* what real and tangible grace looks like. God’s love touching the lives of so many through our hands and hearts, our giving and serving. Paul reminds the Corinthians—and us today—that when we give, we don’t just meet needs; we multiply thanksgiving to God. Think about that: Every time you give, every time you give...**Someone**...somewhere gives thanks.

~A child gives thanks for a full stomach.

~A teenager gives thanks for a community that loves them.

~A neighbor gives thanks for finding hope and belonging.

~A missionary gives thanks for being able to keep serving.

Your generosity doesn’t just sustain programs or a building—it multiplies praise. It creates ripples of gratitude that echo through lives and generations. And in that, Paul says, *God is glorified*.

Friends, as we celebrate Thanksgiving in 4 days, we remember that everything begins with the Giver. Paul writes that God is the one who “supplies seed to the sower and bread for food.” Every blessing we have—our homes, our work, our families, our faith—it all comes from the overflowing abundance of God’s grace. Thanksgiving is not just a day on the calendar. It’s a posture of the heart. Thanksgiving is not just a day on the calendar. It’s a posture of the heart.

When we live in gratitude, we start to see the world differently. It’s that shifting wonder where we start noticing the miracles all around us. And the more thankful we become, the more generous we become—because gratitude opens our hands & our hearts. It reminds us that we have been blessed *to be a blessing*.

This morning, as we bring forward our **2026 Giving Commitment Cards**, we are not completing a transaction. We are making a declaration of faith: “Lord, take what we offer, and make it a miracle.” Each commitment card, each offering, is a seed. And God, the great Gardener, will take those seeds and multiply them—turning them into ministries of compassion, worship, and hope that change lives.

When you give, you become part of something so much larger than yourself. You become a visible sign—a real and tangible sign—of God’s ongoing miracle of grace.

At both services we welcome **12 new members** into this growing family of faith. And friends... *what a miracle that is*. This is not just a number.

~It is a portrait of God's grace made visible.

~It is **tangible evidence** that the Holy Spirit is drawing people to this church, knitting hearts together, and creating a community where all belong and all are loved.

This new member class is beautifully diverse—representing all ages and all life stages. Some have been worshipping here for decades; some only for a few weeks. Some come from our 9:00am service, some from 11:00am, and yet all of them said the same thing when asked why they chose to join FMC:

“Because this feels like family.”

“Because people are genuinely friendly.”

“Because the love here is real.”

And that—*that*—is a miracle. Not the loud, flashy kind. But the *quiet, steady, holy kind*. The kind where God gathers people who might never have met—and turns them into a family. Their presence strengthens us. Their gifts enrich us. Their stories remind us that God is still adding to the harvest—still building the church, still moving in ways that make us stop and say, “*Look at what God is doing in this place!*”

Friends, we do not grow because of clever strategies or programs. We grow because **God's love is authentic here**. It's real and tangible—it's that touchable grace. And people can feel it the moment they walk through the door. This is what Paul meant when he said, “Your generosity will overflow with many thanksgivings to God.”

These twelve new members...a unicorn princess...and everything, Everything we do at FMC and beyond...in service of Jesus Christ...are part of that overflowing thanksgiving—living signs of God's miracles everywhere.

So you see my friends, today we bring so much on Thanksgiving Sunday. Our lives, our love, and YES, our financial commitment to continuing Christ's work through FMC in 2026. But remember, bring your thanks-giving too. Bring your joy, your gratitude, and your faith. Because when we show up with faith and love—**miracles really are everywhere. Amen and Amen!**