Week Five:
A Generous Life

Over the past several weeks, we have reflected on God's generosity, learned to trust God's provision, and considered what it means to be faithful stewards. This week, we turn to Jesus and a deeper question: What kind of people are we becoming?

Throughout his ministry, Jesus invited people to look beyond what they possessed and consider what shaped their hearts. Whether challenging a wealthy ruler to let go of what held him back, welcoming Zacchaeus into a transformed life, or praising a widow who offered two small coins, Jesus showed that generosity is about more than money. It is about how we live as his followers.

Generosity changes the giver, not just the recipient.

Stewardship, then, is not simply something we do once a year. It is part of the lifelong journey of following Jesus. As you prepare to complete your pledge card, remember that your pledge is more than a financial decision. It is one expression of your desire to grow in faith.

Rather than asking only, "How much should I give?" consider a deeper question: Who is God inviting me to become?

As we reflect on that question, our response may become clearer. Generosity grows not from obligation, but from hearts shaped by God's grace.

A Simple Practice

Before completing your pledge card, spend a few moments in prayer with these questions:

- How has generosity shaped my faith?
- Where have I experienced joy in giving?
- Who is God inviting me to become?

Allow those questions to guide your prayer as you prepare for Ingathering Sunday.

Growing Together: The Tree of Gratitude

Continue adding leaves to the Tree of Gratitude in the narthex.

Spend a few moments reading the reflections others have shared. Together they remind us that generosity forms not only individuals, but the whole Body of Christ.

This week's question:
What are you learning to trust God with?

Continue the Conversation

Whether around the dinner table, in the car on the way home from church, or over a cup of coffee, take a few moments to ask one another:

When have you experienced the joy of giving to someone else?

Let us pray.

Gracious God, from whom every good gift comes, teach us to trust in your faithful provision. Meet us in our anxiety, deepen our contentment, and help us to rest in the abundance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.