

The Purposes of the Church

We, the people of Plymouth Congregational Church, humbly seek and serve God within, among, and beyond ourselves.

Beyond

God's creation benefits from our love lived out in the world.

We:

- Invest our time, talent, and treasure consistent with our values.
- Serve people in need.
- Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.
- Share our vision of progressive Christianity, while respecting other faith traditions

Invest our time, talent, and treasure consistent with our values.

The Theology of Giving

- ▶ Giving expresses a basic attitude of gratitude toward God for God's many gifts to us and the trust we have in God as the ultimate source of our security.
- ▶ The sense of our relationship with God:
 - God unconditionally loves us.
 - God has gifted us in many ways.
 - All that we have and all that we are, our very lives, are gifts from God.
 - We recognize that our ultimate security lies only with God. We are called to trust God with all that we have and are.

Sacrificial giving is an important symbol:

- ▶ By giving (sacrificing) a certain portion of our time, talent and money to God, we are giving symbolic expression to an underlying attitude about life that should be expressed with the entirety of our time, talent and money.
 - ▶ It is a spiritual practice (spiritual discipline) and way of life for Christians, a practice that reflects one's religious values, spiritual depth and maturity. Becoming a generous person involves a lifelong, developmental process which begins in infancy and evolves with each experience of receiving and giving.
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Our Time

Our time begins at birth and ends on this earth with death. For most, it is about 25,000 days. 9,000 days are spent sleeping. How are you spending the rest of your time?

Our Talents

We are born with certain talents that we call natural abilities. These may turn out to be professions, vocations or hobbies. They are things that people have a passion for doing. Is the way you share your talent consistent with your values?



Our treasure:

- Money is another form of energy; and at its best, money is dynamic, empowering, and generative, an instrument of transformation.
- We do not have to possess a lot of money in order to use what we have in ways that are beneficial and life-sustaining.
- Abundance is realized when we appreciate all that comes into our lives and share what we can with intention and good will.
- There is a direct relationship between one's deepest held values and the motivation to give. We contribute our time and resources to those things that matter most in our lives.
- Therefore, our money and our giving have greater impact when we are intentional about how we express our beliefs and values.



Questions:

Are there ways that we as a church could do a better job of teaching giving as a spiritual practice?