



Beloved, Love Creation.

“We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.” - Jenny Uglow

From the beginning of the creation narrative in the Bible, we learn about the design of stewardship. The beloved story of Adam and Even in the garden portray an understanding of care for creation – tending of the garden. The original Hebrew translates with the words “till” and “keep.” The word “till” implies “to be bound in service to” and the word “keep” in its original form implies “to preserve” for the future. This understanding is the foundation of stewardship in any form. Our role as stewards of creation can best be understood by our connection to creation, that it was made for our own sake. Most importantly, that by our own actions of love and care we are fed – literally physically and spiritually.

To Love creation was the call of the beloved community at St. Mary’s United Church of Christ in Maryland when their pastor reported for summer military duty, far away from his church and congregation. Tasked with maintaining the parsonage’s flower garden, the community grew flowers for the shut-in and hospitalized members.

The success of this effort inspired the development of a raised bed garden adjacent to the church, which is now tended by the entire congregation. St. Mary’s connected with a sister church in this effort. Together, their efforts provided produce for the food pantry in their community. Through this project, all generations cultivated the bounty and beautiful blessings of creation together.

As we think about stewardship, can we expand our definition of harvest? What are the needs of your broader community? And who are your partners in answering those needs? Do you provide a tangible or physical product? Or is your harvest more intangible, like an experience of community? Whatever it may be – may it be fruitful and multiply.

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

