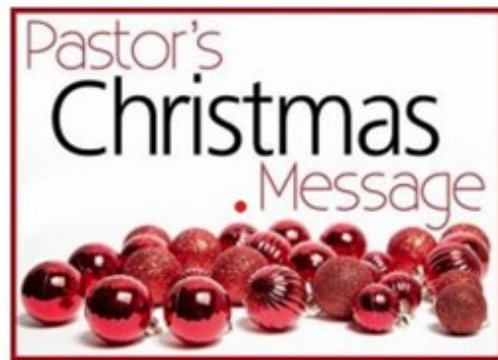


Reaching for **Every Heart**
where we serve
with the **Heart of Christ**

The Heart of Norfolk



Greetings Siblings,
I used to hear this comment from my Mom all the time growing up, "I can show you better than I can tell you!" Well, during this time of the year, I want to show you that no matter what the question is, Jesus is the answer! So, the next time someone asks you who is Jesus, show them this! Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season!

Pastor B

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DECEMBER

8

Finley Jones

18

Kemonte Chapman

23

James manning

25

Pertina Turner

26

Stephanie Stockdale

27

Steven Harrison

29

Frederick Ballentine

30

Rena Manning

30

Latonia Stevens

December

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Saturday, December 7th

11:00 a.m.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Saturday, December 21st

12:00 noon.

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday, December 14th

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

(Volunteers:

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

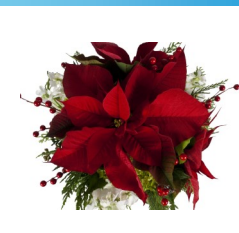
Tuesday, December 24th

6:00 PM



COMING IN THE JANUARY ISSUE
WILL BE OUR LISTING OF EVENTS
AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR
2025

PLEASE INFORM PASTOR GRIFFIN
WHERE YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED.



We offer prayers of
Healing and Well-Being for:

Arlene Allen, President Joe Biden, Charles Cabarras, Anita Chapman, Roosevelt Clark, James Flowers, Luke Jones, Deleva G. Hall, Eldren & Rosalyn Holley, Alice Mason, Cheryl Moore, LeSheryl Moore, Nakia Chambliss, Vicky & Kelvin Moore, Iyanna Moore, Avianna Moore, David O'Neal, Kenard O'Neal, Carol Turner, Our NUM congregation; the Moore, Chapman, Banks, and O'Neal Families.

Please let our members know that you are thinking of them
by sending a message of love and hope through a card,
a call, a text or an email.



**Yvette and Byron
Wilson
December 11th**

Extravagant Generosity

A few months ago, we started a new series on the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. Bishop Robert Schnase went to hundreds of churches and he found out that healthy growing churches have five components. And this month we are talking about extravagant generosity.

I've come to understand what it means to give in a different way as we have been working our way through the Five Practices. You see, they are all wrapped up together. Kingdom living involves receiving and practicing all Five Practices.

Extravagant Generosity is not about your money; it's about your heart. Extravagant Generosity is not about the support of this church; it's about doing the kingdom-building work of Jesus Christ. Money is a factor, but Extravagant Generosity involves much more than money.

In the Scripture passage, the apostle Paul is writing to the people in Corinth, and he's talking about money. But listen carefully to his words, because this will enable you to move past the issue of money to the issue of the heart. (Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15.) Extravagant Generosity is generously giving of our very selves. I think this acrostic HELP will illustrate our theme on generosity:

Heed the compassion command.

Empy yourself so that you might be filled.

Lift the burden of others.

Pay the price.

Heed the compassion command. When Jesus was asked, "How should I live?" he answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, NRSV). Love your neighbor; love those around you. Someone said we are never more like God than when we give.

Empty yourself so that you might be filled. Empty yourself of whatever it is that stands between you and being the loving person God is calling you to be. As you give yourself away, you will become the person you always wanted to be. You empty yourself; God fills you with the Holy Spirit; and you become more like Jesus.

Lift the burden of others. Serve someone else by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus Christ at work in the world. I'm talking about lifting the burden of people who have never set foot on this property. I'm talking about lifting the burden of others in the same ways that Jesus did.

Pay the price. The world says to us Earn all you can, and give out of your abundance. That's not biblical. The Bible teaches us to give in order to enjoy the abundant life. The life that overflows with joy is the life that gives itself away. God is calling us to be people who don't hang on for all we're worth out of fear but who give and give and give freely. And this giving flows as the love of God to other people.

PLEASE tell me what you think. May God continue to Bless you abundantly!

Pastor Bert

DO YOU *KNOW* the Flu?

Here are three steps to take to stay healthy this flu season . . .



The Flu is NO Fun

Know the Facts



Flu is a highly-contagious disease that easily spreads via droplets created when someone coughs, sneezes, or talks.



Children are most likely to get and spread the flu.



Most children who die from the flu had not received their annual flu vaccine.



Have a Flu Vaccination Game Plan



Annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older is the best way to protect against the flu.



Make flu prevention a priority. HERE'S HOW:

#1 Get an annual flu vaccine

#2 If you have flu symptoms, get tested and take antivirals if prescribed.



Practice Healthy Habits, too



In addition to an annual flu vaccination, it's also important to:

- Wash hands often
- Stay home if you don't feel well
- If you suspect you have the flu, get a flu test
- Take antivirals if prescribed to reduce the spread of flu
- Clean and disinfect surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is sick



Getting your annual flu vaccination and practicing healthy habits protects you AND everyone around you, too!

Remember: It's Not 'JUST' the Flu – It's a Serious, but Preventable, Disease!

For more information visit: www.familiesfightingflu.org

Follow us on    



YEAR-END IS A

Time for Giving

Cash Gifts

A cash gift in any amount is a convenient and popular way to show your faithful support for the church or other ministries. If you itemize, the full amount of your gift qualifies for a 2024 charitable income tax deduction. Make certain your check is dated 2024 and received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2024, to receive a deduction this year.

Giving Appreciated Property

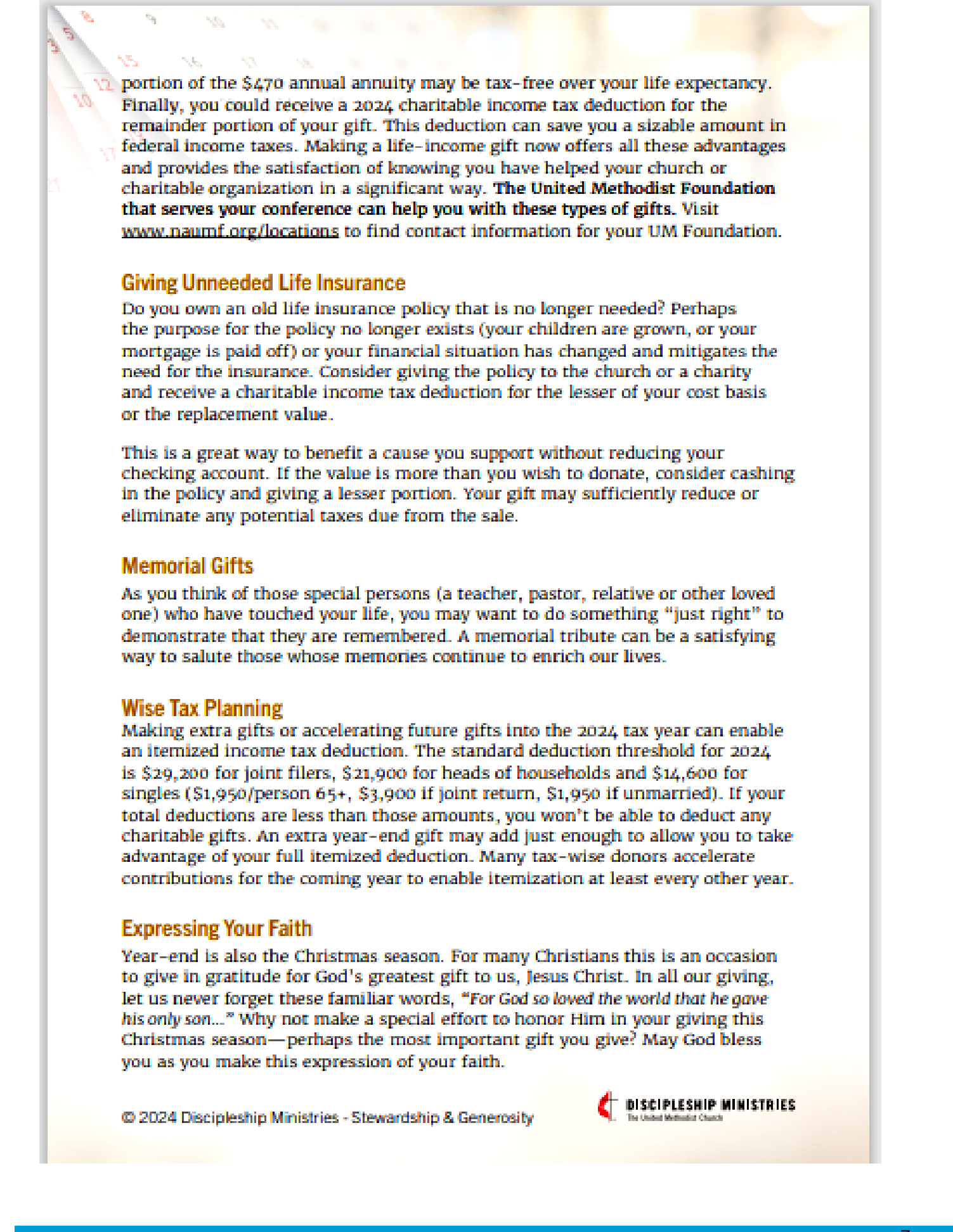
If you own investments that have increased in value (stocks, bonds, real estate, or mutual funds), you can donate them to a church or charity and take a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value and avoid declaring the capital gain of the assets as income. Many people consider this the equivalent of a “double deduction.”

SALE & GIFT		DIRECT GIFT	
Stock with Fair Market Value (Cost Basis \$200)	\$1000	Stock with Fair Market Value (Cost Basis \$200)	\$1000
Taxable Gain on Sale	\$800	Taxable Gain on Sale	\$0
Capital Gain Tax at 15%	\$120	Capital Gain Tax at 15%	\$0
Net Sales after Tax	\$880	Net Gift to Charity	\$1000
Charitable Tax Deduction	\$880	Charitable Tax Deduction	\$1000
Tax Savings at 22%	\$193	Tax Savings at 22%	\$220

Notice how the Direct Gift option can result in the church or charity receiving \$120 more while costing you \$27 less! To receive this special tax treatment, you must have owned the property for at least one year.

Giving & Retaining Income for Life

Did you know you can give to a charity while retaining income from the gift for the rest of your life? A charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust enables you to receive flexible or guaranteed income. Plus, there are significant tax advantages. Let's assume you are 70 years old, single, and wish to make a \$10,000 gift to the church when you are gone but need to receive income until then. You can make the gift now and receive several attractive benefits. First, you could receive income that exceeds what you are currently earning on the \$10,000. At age 70 with an annuity rate of 4.7%* of the \$10,000 each year through a gift annuity (\$470)—greater than most bonds or C.D.s. Next, a



portion of the \$470 annual annuity may be tax-free over your life expectancy. Finally, you could receive a 2024 charitable income tax deduction for the remainder portion of your gift. This deduction can save you a sizable amount in federal income taxes. Making a life-income gift now offers all these advantages and provides the satisfaction of knowing you have helped your church or charitable organization in a significant way. **The United Methodist Foundation that serves your conference can help you with these types of gifts.** Visit www.naumf.org/locations to find contact information for your UM Foundation.

Giving Unneeded Life Insurance

Do you own an old life insurance policy that is no longer needed? Perhaps the purpose for the policy no longer exists (your children are grown, or your mortgage is paid off) or your financial situation has changed and mitigates the need for the insurance. Consider giving the policy to the church or a charity and receive a charitable income tax deduction for the lesser of your cost basis or the replacement value.

This is a great way to benefit a cause you support without reducing your checking account. If the value is more than you wish to donate, consider cashing in the policy and giving a lesser portion. Your gift may sufficiently reduce or eliminate any potential taxes due from the sale.

Memorial Gifts

As you think of those special persons (a teacher, pastor, relative or other loved one) who have touched your life, you may want to do something “just right” to demonstrate that they are remembered. A memorial tribute can be a satisfying way to salute those whose memories continue to enrich our lives.

Wise Tax Planning

Making extra gifts or accelerating future gifts into the 2024 tax year can enable an itemized income tax deduction. The standard deduction threshold for 2024 is \$29,200 for joint filers, \$21,900 for heads of households and \$14,600 for singles (\$1,950/person 65+, \$3,900 if joint return, \$1,950 if unmarried). If your total deductions are less than those amounts, you won’t be able to deduct any charitable gifts. An extra year-end gift may add just enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction. Many tax-wise donors accelerate contributions for the coming year to enable itemization at least every other year.

Expressing Your Faith

Year-end is also the Christmas season. For many Christians this is an occasion to give in gratitude for God’s greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ. In all our giving, let us never forget these familiar words, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...”* Why not make a special effort to honor Him in your giving this Christmas season—perhaps the most important gift you give? May God bless you as you make this expression of your faith.

NORFOLK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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<http://www.NORFOLK-UMC.ORG>(Website) • www.facebook.com/NorfolkUMC

Office Hours :

Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM

Worship:

Sundays, 9:00 AM

Sunday School:

Sundays, 10:15 - 11:15 AM

Bible Study:

Wednesdays, 12:00 Noon

Mid Week Prayer:

Wednesdays, 7:00 AM

Dial 605-313-5532 Access Code 8179616

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesdays, 6:30 PM

Pastor - Rev. Bertrand Griffin, II

Lay Leader

Mrs. Portia Murphy

Trustees, Chr.

Mrs. Brenda T. Cabarras

Minister of Music

Mr. William Brown, II

Finance, Chr.

Mrs. Barbara Campfield

Admin. Council

Mrs. Freida Clark, Chr.

Staff, Pastor-Parish

Mr. Howard Graves, Chr.

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