



# First, We Give Of Ourselves

## *Giving in Generosity*

### **“God’s Generosity and Our Own”**

For the Christian, generosity is initiated by God. It is God’s grace and love that always provides the first note in the composition of life. The writer of 1 John says, *“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another.”* 1 John 4:11 — Our giving, our generosity is not done to elicit a response from God but rather in a joyful response for what God has *already* done for us in Christ. God’s note of grace always underlies of life in grace and generosity.

### **“Generosity and Blessing”**

Generosity is a matter of the heart! Text from 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 is the theme passage for **First, We Give Of Ourselves**. In this passage we hear an account of extreme generosity. It was a generosity that flowed from the heart in deep thanksgiving for God’s own generosity of grace in Jesus Christ. Generosity is not determined by how much is given but rather by the condition of the heart. Therein lies the blessing of generosity. It is the joyful sharing of a thankful heart that celebrates God’s generosity through the giving of ourselves. A heart full of thanksgiving leads to generosity and blessing!

### **This is Generosity Weekend!**

Today offers a time of generosity as we have the opportunity to share a gift above and beyond our regular giving. The loose offering received is designated for the expansion of the new food pantry facility on Route 6 near the west edge of town. This recommendation came from the Church Council. The increased building space is projected to be used for storage and a laundry area to clean donations of clothing before they are offered to the clients. In this giving, we celebrate God’s generosity and our response in being a blessing for others. Thank you for your generosity!