

BECAUSE WE CARE...

ENGAGEMENT JOURNAL



“Loving one another, and working
together with one mind and purpose.”

ONE MISSION, ONE FUND FOR EVERYONE.

What an exciting time for Boone United Methodist Church! Lives are being transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ! Children are laughing and learning. Youth are growing and maturing. Adults of all ages are being nurtured and supported in living out the Christian faith. And, together, we are doing much to love our community, inviting all to discover life in Christ.

As we move into the future, we know we need to find new ways to be in mission and ministry in the world to keep the momentum going. Our building is a mission hub where people from all over the High Country gather for support groups, scouting, and civic activities. These facilities need repair and upgrading so that our presence at 471 New Market Blvd. is welcoming and Christ-centered for years to come. Also, enhancements to the Boone United Trail and the gorgeous meadow behind the church can be used to draw people into a relationship with the Lord, the creator of such beautiful places.

The “*Because We Care...*” initiative will provide the resources for us to reach out in new ways, to make necessary improvements to our buildings and grounds, and to prepare us to move forward into the future.

Not many congregations have such an opportunity. We are truly fortunate to envision how to expand our outreach. God is indeed doing a great thing right now in and through Boone UMC. Through your generosity, we know God’s work will continue because we are showing how much we care about the Gospel and about the people around us.

I invite you to read, study, and pray over all the material in this journal. It will be so helpful to you as you seek the Lord’s wisdom and guidance in how you will participate in this great work that is before us.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed. Hig.", is written below the text "Yours in Christ,".

WHAT IS “*BECAUSE WE CARE...*” ALL ABOUT?

“*Because We Care...*” is a two-year ONE-FUND generosity initiative through which we’ll expand our church’s outreach and enhance our campus, growing in our mission to love our community and invite all to discover life in Christ. We’ll have the opportunity to make a sacrificial commitment in response to God’s sacrificial love and care for us, our community, and our world. Why will we give? Because We Care!

IMPACT

Through our “*Because We Care...*” initiative, we want to ensure Boone UMC’s ministry impact now and in the future. We will resource our existing ministries and missions giving for 2024/2025, strive to become debt-free, and establish operational reserves. Being good stewards in these areas will enable us to embrace our value of being “ready to do something.”

PRESENCE

Our church’s campus is a tangible presence of the love of Christ in our community, a spiritual home in which we worship and from which we are sent out in mission. Through our “*Because We Care...*” initiative, we will make necessary repairs and upgrades to ensure that our presence at 471 New Market Boulevard is welcoming and Christ-centered for generations to come.

COMMUNITY

Boone UMC strives to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community, embracing our value that “everyone everywhere matters.” Through our “*Because We Care...*” initiative, we hope to expand community outreach by establishing a Christ-centered after-school program, funding our feeding ministries, enhancing the Boone United Trail, and maximizing our firewood ministry and other BUMC-driven ministries.

One Mission, One Fund for Everyone.

THE “BECAUSE WE CARE...” VISION

Our PRIMARY Goal

100% Engagement

We want every person who calls Boone UMC their church home to be a part of the “*Because We Care...*” initiative. We desire unity around advancing what we believe is a God-inspired mission and vision.

Our GIVING Goal

\$5,000,000

We are trusting God to move through His people to invest \$5 million over these next two years. The vision is a “one fund” goal which includes our Ministry Plan and Faith Promise mission goals.

**Our
Ministry Plan,
including
Faith Promise
\$3,000,000**

**Our Impact,
Our Presence,
Our Community
\$2,000,000**

GENEROSITY MATTERS AND MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Every day, we make financial decisions.

Some decisions are small, like,

"Should we have coffee at home or splurge for a Starbucks latte?"

Other decisions are big like,

"Which house, which car, or which college should I choose?"

And some decisions focus on the future such as,

"How much should we spend on Christmas, or which retirement funds should I choose?"

Probably the most challenging decision we make with money is the decision to give. Giving creates tension:

"How much is enough?"

"How can I give more?"

That's why giving is such a big deal! Giving is not just a financial decision. It is a deeply spiritual decision. It's a tangible way we declare our trust in and commitment to God. We have some questions to help you consider how God has blessed you and how He might invite you to trust Him during *"Because We Care..."*

THE INFLUENCE OF GENEROSITY

Use the space below and on the next page for journaling.

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

Questions for Reflection

1. Spiritually speaking, who has had the most influence on my understanding of the value of generosity and following the example of Christ?

2. Is my value of living a generous life inspiring others? If so, in what ways have I seen evidence of influence? If not, what do I need to do to have more of an impact on those around me?

3. Why is giving to the church something that is important to you?

4. How do the following two verses work together to form how we/you feel about giving to the church?

John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

2 Corinthians 8:7: *But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

1

Initial Giver

2 Corinthians 8:6-7

I'm making my first gift on my giving journey with my church and/or with the Lord.

2

Prioritizing Giver

Proverbs 3:9

*Regardless of how much, my giving is going to be the **FIRST FINANCIAL THING** I do before anything else.*

3

Cheerful Giver

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

It is a joy to give because I love the Lord, plus I can feel and see the difference that my giving makes in me.

4

Proportional Giver

2 Corinthians 8:11-12

I give proportionally in relation to how much money comes into my household.

5

Surrendered Giver

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Rather than how I live determining how much I give: how much I give will determine how I live.

6

Sacrificial Giver

1 Chronicles 21:22-25

I am willing to give up things I love to advance the Kingdom work of the One I love more.

7

Planning Giver

1 Timothy 6:17-19

I have made plans to give to the Kingdom work once I move from this side of Heaven to the other.

WHERE ARE YOU ON YOUR GIVING JOURNEY?

“*Because We Care...*” is an opportunity for each of us to grow spiritually in our giving and generosity. What you see here is an illustration of a person’s “giving journey.” Our giving journey helps us focus on our behavior and the posture of our hearts towards giving rather than just the amount we give.

Each step in this journey represents a lifestyle of becoming increasingly more generous as we grow in our relationships with Him. Where are you on your giving journey? How might the “*Because We Care...*” initiative challenge you to take the next step in your journey?

On the previous page is an illustration showing the levels of the giving journey. In the space at the bottom of this page, place a checkmark on the step that describes where you are on your journey. Then, write about what is needed for you to take a step forward.



GENEROSITY AND YOUR LIFESTYLE

Use the space below and on the next page for journaling.

Read Colossians 3:1-4

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ,
set your sights on the realities of heaven,
where Christ sits in the place of honor
at God's right hand. Think about the things
of heaven, not the things of earth.
For you died to this life, and your real life
is hidden with Christ in God.
And when Christ, who is your life,
is revealed to the whole world,
you will share in all his glory.*

Questions for Reflection

1. In the way that I live and set priorities in my life, are my sights set on the realities/things of heaven or the realities/things of earth?

2. More specifically, would I say that my giving is reflective of my sights being set on the realities of heaven or the realities of earth?

3. What changes in my lifestyle and/or sacrifices do I feel God is inspiring me to make to see our "Because We Care..." initiative become a reality?

4. What is/are the barrier(s) that may prevent me from making these changes or sacrifices? What is God asking me to do about these barrier(s)?

WAYS TO HELP YOU SEE HOW YOU CAN GIVE MORE

During these 24 months the following are ideas and changes you could consider in making your “*Because We Care...*” commitment.

Make Lifestyle Changes

King David declared in 2 Samuel 24:24

“I will not offer to God a sacrifice that costs me nothing”

David understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver. A gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the life of the giver. This is the spirit of lifestyle worship. If it is for God, my gift must have meaning and value to me.

Redirect Paid Expenses

If you have current expenditures that will cease or will be paid off, consider including these savings in your commitment.

Increase in Income

You may get an increase in salary or a bonus. Could God be calling you to include that in your commitment?

Give from your 98%

Only 2% of the average household’s net worth is cash, meaning 98% is in other assets. Often those assets have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the time. If these assets were sold, some portion of the gain would be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets avoid the occurrence of capital gains tax. Giving assets like stocks, investment securities, real estate, art, jewelry, coin collections can be advantageous to both the donor and our church.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR US TO REACH OUR GOAL OF \$5,000,000 DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

Certainly, it will take some substantial gifts. It may also happen as each of us makes small changes in our lifestyles in order to sacrifice something of value for something of greater value: God’s kingdom work through Boone UMC. Here are a few examples of how small changes can add up to make a big difference in reaching our goal if we each consider the large and small sacrifices we can make.

Big & Small Sacrifices Can Help Us Reach Our Goal			
Here are just a few examples of how even the smallest changes can add up to make a big difference in reaching our goal. Consider adding these into your commitment.			
Activity	Average Cost	x24 Months	x 275 Families
2 cups of coffee	\$8.00	\$192.00	\$52,800.00
1 large pizza	\$12.00	\$288.00	\$79,200.00
1 fast food meal for a family	\$25.00	\$600.00	\$165,000.00
Downgrade TV plan or entertainment	\$20.00	\$480.00	\$132,000.00
Clip coupons or save \$5/week for groceries	\$20.00	\$480.00	\$132,000.00
		TOTAL:	\$561,000.00

One Mission, One Fund for Everyone.

GENEROSITY AS YOUR LEGACY

Use space below and on the next page for journaling.

Read Acts 20:33-38

I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' When he (Paul) had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. They all cried as they embraced and kissed him goodbye. They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again.

Questions for Reflection

1. In the passage, Paul is saying goodbye to the Ephesian elders. They both know they will never see each other again. In his final words, Paul implores them to live lives of radical generosity. Of all the messages and topics he could have chosen as his final words, why does he focus on giving?

2. What am I intentionally doing right now to build a legacy of generosity in my children and/or those whom I influence?

3. Am I giving in a way that stretches and challenges me, or has my giving become comfortable and routine? What can I do about this?

4. Am I ready to trust God by making a commitment I'll only be able to honor if he "shows up" in a major way? Why or why not?

5. What am I beginning to feel that God wants me to commit to "Because We Care...?"

ONE FUND

It's possible that you've been a part of church campaigns in the past where you were asked to give a second gift "above and beyond" your regular giving. We've found that "over and above" giving is potentially confusing to people who don't have a baseline for their normal giving. So, we aren't doing that through "Because We Care...". Instead, "Because We Care..." will be a ONE FUND initiative, meaning ALL of our giving goes towards ALL three areas of "Because We Care..." over the next two years. It is all one mission, so it is all one Ministry Plan.

Through ONE FUND initiative, we will more successfully invite everyone to increase their level of generosity.

Sample Commitment Card

CALCULATE HERE

\$ _____ What I/we normally give in a year
(including General Fund giving & Faith Promise missions)

+ \$ _____ My/our expanded annual
generosity for "Because We Care..."

= \$ _____ x 2 years = _____

+ One-time capital gifts of cash = \$ _____
and/or from my/our other
non-cash assets:

\$ _____
My/our two-year commitment for
December 2023-December 2025

Full Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

MY COMMITMENT

As you pray and seek God’s direction for how you should give, use the 2-Year Gift Chart below as a discipleship tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity as we embark on the “*Because We Care...*” initiative together.

2-Year Gift Char

2-Year Gift Level	Weekly Gift of:	Monthly Gift of:	Annual Gift of:	Total Gifts Needed at This Level	Gift Level Total for Our Initiative
\$150,000	\$1,442	\$6,250	\$75,000	1	\$150,000
\$100,000	\$962	\$4,167	\$50,000	2	\$200,000
\$75,000	\$721	\$3,125	\$37,500	5	\$375,000
\$50,000	\$481	\$2,083	\$25,000	28	\$1,400,000
\$35,000	\$337	\$1,458	\$17,500	30	\$1,050,000
\$25,000	\$240	\$1,042	\$12,500	32	\$800,000
\$15,000	\$144	\$625	\$7,500	32	\$480,000
\$7,500	\$72	\$313	\$3,750	34	\$255,000
\$5,000	\$48	\$208	\$2,500	34	\$170,000
\$2,500	\$24	\$104	\$1,250	34	\$85,000
\$1,000	\$10	\$42	\$500	35	\$35,000

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

OCT. 29, 2023

Use the commitment card sample on the previous page to help you prayerfully consider what level of generosity God is calling you to during “*Because We Care...*” You will get a new card to fill out on Commitment Sunday.

One Mission, One Fund for Everyone.

SERMON NOTES

Week #1: Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

SURRENDER

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Week #1: Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

SURRENDER

1. What does it look like for you to deny yourself in the various areas of your life? With your time? With your activities? With your resources?

2. How in denying yourself do you find true life?

SERMON NOTES

Week #2: Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

TRUST

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew 14:31

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Week #2: Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

TRUST

1. What type of faith did it take for Peter to step out of the boat and walk on the water?

2. Upon whom was Peter looking?

3. What caused Peter to sink into the waves? What distracted Peter?

4. How is this story a lesson for you as you are being called to step out in faith with your giving?

SERMON NOTES

Week #3: Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

STEWARDSHIP

1 Peter 4:8-11

1 Peter 4:10

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of
you has received.*

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Week #3: Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

STEWARDSHIP

1. How are you being called to be a steward of the grace given to you?

2. What does stewarding grace look like for you right now in this time and place?

3. How do you think your stewardship of resources and your service for others give glory to God through Jesus Christ?

SERMON NOTES

Week #4: Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

SACRIFICE

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Week #4: Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

SACRIFICE

1. For what or for whom have you sacrificed in the past? Why did you make that sacrifice?

2. Think back to ways you have given to the work of the Lord in and through the church. When has it seemed like you were “tipping” God? When has it been a sacrifice for you?

3. How does it make you feel when you have sacrificed something for the Lord?

SERMON NOTES

Week #5: Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

UNITY IN COMMITMENT

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Week #5: Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023

Use space below for journaling.

UNITY IN COMMITMENT

1. The text tells us the unity of their generosity was naturally attractive to the world around them. How has someone's generosity made a difference in your life? How do you hope to make a difference in the lives of others through your generosity?

2. How can a spirit of generosity in our church be a means to bring others to Christ?



BOONE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Discover life together.

booneumc.org/because-we-care