

Why People Give to Fourth Presbyterian Church
(answers from 'giving is an act of worship' activity at 10:30 service)
28 September 2025

The congregation was asked to participate in our 'giving is an act of worship' activity by coming forward during the Offering to place a dollar (or more) into one basket and a piece of paper with their answer to the question, "Why do you give to Fourth Pres?". The answers fell into seven groupings, summarized and listed below.

Conclusion: People give to Fourth Presbyterian Church because it is their *spiritual family and home*, and a *source of gratitude, growth, and belonging*. They trust its *mission and leadership*, want to *serve God and neighbors*, and feel called—by love, community, and Scripture—to support both today's ministries and the faith of future generations.

Family & Belonging

Many people describe Fourth as *their family*—a spiritual home where we feel loved, supported, and connected. We give out of gratitude for being part of a caring community that has walked with us through life's ups and downs, and we want to ensure that same support for future generations (children, grandchildren, and new members).

- They do good things with it and they are my family
- Church family
- I give because this is a strengthening influence for my daughter and granddaughter who attend here
- I give because Fourth is my family; because we serve, car, worship and learn together
- I give because this is my church family. It is joyful to give in thanks for my many blessings. I support the mission and witness of our church. I give to pass along blessings to others and support and ministry at Fourth Pres.
- I give to 4th because through the ups and downs of my life, the people of 4th have been there for me. I really believe in the ministries that 4th provides and want to be a part of them
- I give because Fourth is my home and I want to help it. Fourth means the world to me so I will help the church.
- My family
- I give because it is the social contract. My family attends church and receives the social benefit of it, so we give money. It doesn't actually have all that much to do with how I serve God, which is much more personal.
- 4th Presbyterian reaches my heart and soul, you are my family. Multiply my gift with those of others to achieve more results.
- Thank you. This church has given my father, Lou Greer, so much over the years. The members and leaders have provided him with support and companionship. I am forever grateful for that. I have loved getting to witness and experience that support over the last few months.
- I am thankful for this family and a place for renewal!
- Triple F: Faith, Fellowship, Family
- 4th is my family I love my family and give out of love

- With acknowledgment and gratitude for what I receive in being part of this congregation
- Maintain steady course, always what I need to hear
- Because of all that Fourth has offered me, given me, taught me, and for the opportunities I have to give back, to community, to church, and to God.

Gratitude & Blessings

Giving is often expressed as a joyful response to God's blessings. We want to "pass along" what we've received, acknowledging the peace, strength, and renewal we've found at Fourth.

- Commitments to organization working for social and economic justice
- I believe in Fourth's mission and values and want to support it
- I believe in building community with love and grace and understanding
- Support physical properties
- Because our church is important to lead, teach and develop Christians
- I support 4th Pres because I believe in and promote our mission
- I give to support the work of this congregation both internally and outside our walls to further the kingdom of God
- 4th Pres give a sense of community filled with caring, loving people who love each other no matter what
- I believe in the mission and the inclusivity of our church
- Community and how welcomed I feel here; the empathy that is encouraged
- Inclusive community; inquisitive about our relationship with God; in fellowship with others; in reflection about where God is in our lives
- Sense of Christian community; beautiful sanctuary, gifted staff, vital outreach
- Community
- Our community
- I donate to the church to support its ministers and ministries
- It's a light of hope, connects us to what is truly important in the world
- Because God is here and I feel that everyone is welcome here
- I give because of the thoughtful sermons
- I believe in what we do
- I give to 4th to show my gratitude to God, to support our mission partners, to care for our pastors & staff and our 'place'
- I give to the church because the church gives back in so many ways, to the community, to our church, to all who need help
- I give because of the incredible community of this church, but also because I am grateful for its outward-looking stance to help others in Greenville and around the world.
- For all this church does for others

Belief in Fourth's Mission & Values

We trust and believe in the church's mission—its commitment to inclusivity, justice, compassion, thoughtful preaching, and vibrant outreach. We value how Fourth combines worship, service, and fellowship into a meaningful Christian witness. Giving allows us to support not only the pastors, staff, and physical church but also the congregation's broader ministries: worship, education, youth programs, and care for the vulnerable in Greenville and beyond. We see our giving as multiplying with others' gifts to expand the church's impact.

- 4th Pres helps me do God's work
- I give to Fourth Pres to support our church's mission work as well as our building & grounds, and our pastors and staff
- I give to this church because it is an important part of my life and I want this church to be involved in the care of the community around us
- To support the work of God in our worshipping community
- To help with the good doings of the church
- To help support the church and those in our community who need help
- I give to Fourth in order to help sustain and grow God's church
- Continue our work for justice
- To help love our neighbors
- To help this church
- To support God's work in the world
- I give to further the work of this amazing church
- I worship at 4th and serve to show Jesus to all, and to remember who I really am: a child of God!
- Help others, share with less fortunate
- I give to 4th as a way to help others in need and to support our church's tangible needs
- Giving to help further our church's impact and mission
- Because it helps people
- We give to help the church community, to love our neighbors and to be an example of God's light
- To help people in need
- To advance the ministry of our congregation and Christ's church
- I give to 4th because 4th challenges me to serve others and I give to 4th because we speak truth to power!
- To help our church/congregation do God's work to all/everyone
- To help people
- I give to support all the good work that is being done in this faith community and the greater community and as a sign of gratitude for all I have received from God and this community.
- I give to help 4th continue with all the good work

Supporting Community & Ministries

A strong motivation is helping others—feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, supporting local and global missions, and standing for social and economic justice. We see our giving as a tangible way to serve God by serving neighbors.

- To feed those without enough and help provide education/training to those whose educational opportunities are few
- I give to help support those who cannot support themselves
- Mission work
- Local mission
- I give to help support Mission and Witness programs and to support social justice in our community

- For missions: clothe, feed and house
- Help others in country that struggle to ask for help
- To help our community because so few people want to help the poor
- Mission focus
- Support global and local missions
- Support the mission of the church and those that help to execute that mission

Personal & Spiritual Growth

We give because it deepens our faith, gives us peace and joy, and helps us live out Christian values. Many frame giving as an act of discipleship—planting seeds, showing God’s love, or simply doing what feels right and good.

- Spiritual growth
- Living out my faith
- Feeling of acceptance and all that we do in the community
- I give to this church because it is an important part of my life and I want this church to be involved in the car of the community around us.
- I give back to remember it’s not mine to begin with , and can’t take it with me... and it’s tax deductible
- It makes me feel good
- Because I love helping
- I am choosing to give my time to 4th Pres because the church community gives me peace in mind and soul
- Learn more about 4th Pres
- Because I am blessed
- To fellowship and grow with my brothers and sisters
- I didn’t know what to do I was lost but then I found God and he helped me through everything and I would be lost without God’s walking with me in my life
- I grew up not believing in God/knowing I wasn’t loved by him, as I got older & put my faith & heart into giving my life to Someone who wanted it I started spend more time in church and supporting the community that watched my through thick and thin to become the person I am now.
- To worship God and learn more of the way Jesus lived
- Always a blessing to be able to give
- Inner peace
- Peace, fellowship and God’s word
- I give to FPC because it is a way to show my love of God
- I give because the act of giving is like planting a seed

Biblical Duty & Call

Some of us cite Scripture and Christian tradition, naming tithing, Christ’s teaching, and God’s commands as reasons for giving. In this view, giving is obedience, stewardship, and an essential part of discipleship.

- To serve the Lord
- Be kind

- Peace, fellowship and God's word
- To help others
- To give as God has commanded
- A part of Christian service is to support the mission of the church!
- We are commanded to tithe, that is our 10%. Our giving is what we give above that. Giving above the 10% is the gift to God. It is used to help our church budget.
- I give because it is right and good. Love, compassion, peace, kindness, justice
- Trying to follow Christ's direction—fellowship and other Christians, giving to needs of those less blessed in the community, support of Christian ministry in dedicated space
- I give to further the mission on the church which is to follow Christ
- To show God's love as he asks of us
- Better to give than to receive, sharing riches is loving others
- I give to Fourth to do what Jesus and God wants of us—to help the less fortunate and spread the Word through acts of love, kindness, and justice.
- Prayer, faith, giving back
- Because I love God!
- Because Jesus told us to...
- I give because it is the right thing to do for the greater good

Investment in Youth & the Future

Support for children and youth programs (Montreat, basketball, spiritual formation) is another motivator. We give to nurture the next generation in faith and community.

- To support youth ministry and community support—needy and homeless
- To help the youth!
- Youth programs such as Montreat weekend and winter league basketball
- To develop a love of Jesus for all children