



What happens when we experience a new way of living that is not based in an economy of greed or mere survival but on trust and shared resources?

In the parable Jesus told according to Matthew 25:14-30, CEB, the master entrusts valuable coins or talents in the care of three servants. A talent represents 20 years' wages. *How is that for extravagant?* 

Two of the servants recognize the incredible opportunity they have and invest wisely, multiplying their gifts. The master returns and is pleased, celebrating with the servants.

Do we recognize that God has entrusted us with something extraordinary?

This congregation, along with much of the world, has endured a season of uncertainty and loss. In the midst of a worldwide shift, your heart for giving never changed. Your faithfulness has allowed the church to serve as a beacon of hope and possibility in our community.

And as part of the United Methodist connection, our gifts stretch far beyond this congregation and stand in the gap for our friends around the world. The investment of love through this local church extends into the world as more than just the sum of our parts, including supporting mission through the Ministerial Fund, Black College Fund and Africa University Fund. Our community of grace touches lives around the world.

What do we need to do to keep this church prepared to fully live out the mission God has put before us?

As you consider the gifts God has entrusted with you, your offerings join with others, adding up to so much more than the sum of their parts to impact this church, the community and God's world.

Thank you for your faithful generosity.

