

Growing Our Gifts – FAQ page

Details about Growing Our Gifts and answers to some questions you may have

What is the purpose of “Growing Our Gifts?”

- This activity is designed as a modest fundraiser for the church organized in a way that will be fun for participants and increase connections within the church community.

When will it take place?

- The kickoff will be on Sunday, September 10, and the project will be active until Sunday, October 29. There may be some parts of the project that extend beyond that date.

Why are participants being given \$10? Where did this money come from?

- The money is symbolic of our God-given gifts. Participants are asked to use the money AND their ideas, talents and time to GROW the original amount of money. You can use the \$10 to purchase supplies for your project, to advertise a service you want to provide or in any other way.
- The Woman’s Association, long committed to using their talents to support the church and community organizations, provided the initial funds to be distributed and will be paid back out of the project’s proceeds.

If I want to participate, how will I get the \$10?

- On September 10, those who know they want to participate can pick up their “seed money” after the service at a table in front of the church. On September 17 and 24, the handouts will continue at a table in the narthex before and after the service.
- The seed money envelopes can also be picked up from Andrea in the church office during the week and from committee members (see bottom of sheet).

Do I have to work alone on a project?

- No! People can choose to work alone or in groups which might be couples, families, friends, etc. In some cases, pooling seed money may enable a group to do a project that would be difficult for an individual.
- Proceeds from group projects can be returned in one envelope with the names of all the members of the group listed.

How can I come up with a good idea for a project?

- Think about what time and skills you have and see if that leads to one or more project ideas.
- The Spire insert describing the project has a list of ideas, and these and other suggestions will be posted on the “Inspiration and Ads” bulletin board.
- Talk to others about ideas for individual and joint projects and see what appeals to you.

What if I don't want to take the seed money and do a project?

- Participation is completely voluntary. Those who don't take the seed money can support this effort in other ways. There will be a variety of products and services offered by those participating. Everyone is encouraged to look at the Ads bulletin board or the website to see if there is something you want to purchase. There will also be a Growing Our Gifts Market during fellowship time on October 1, which will be a good place to see what goods and services are being offered. There should be something for everyone!

What is the Growing Our Gifts Market

- We know that many people who decide on a product or service to provide for this project will need assistance with advertising. We will have a bulletin board on which products and services can be advertised and during fellowship time on Sunday, October 1, we will set up tables in the Community Room for people to show their projects to others in the congregation.
- Here are a few examples of how this might work:
 - If you use seed money for supplies and make a product (cookies, jam, aprons, bracelets – the list is endless), you can show your products at a table at the Market and sell it to those who attend.
 - If you have an idea for a product but don't yet have an inventory, you can display samples at the Market and take orders for future delivery.
 - If you plan to provide a service (hosting a dinner, providing yard or home assistance, helping people with their technology questions, offering a class or workshop on a topic of interest – once again the list is endless), you can tell people about it at the Market and have people sign up to take advantage of the offer.

How will the money be handled at the end of the project?

- On the "wrap-up" Sunday (October 29) we plan to have a special observance during the worship service to celebrate our efforts.
- All proceeds should be returned in the project envelopes with the information on the envelope completed. If you lose your envelope, additional ones will be available in the church office or from a committee member.
- During the period from September 17 through October 29, envelopes can be dropped off in the church office at any time or deposited in the offering plate on any Sunday. Proceeds can be returned as cash or checks. Checks should be made out to the church (Congregational Church of Amherst) and have "Growing Our Gifts" on the memo line.
- Those who need more time to complete their projects or to collect payments can turn in their proceeds later. In some cases participants may choose a project that will take place outside the dates above. If that is the case, the committee should be notified so that they can keep track of projects that are still outstanding.

Questions? Contact Kay Steeves (kksteeves@gmail.com), Cynthia Sears (eolas4all@gmail.com) or Sally Hooper (sallyhoop@comcast.net).

