



THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

Education & Clergy Development

#myPASTORocks Pastor Appreciation Month 2020

Join us in sharing stories of those who faithfully shepherd our communities

Here's how you can get involved:

- Follow The Wesleyan Church on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Print the attached #myPASTORocks sign
- Fill out the sign sharing a characteristic of your pastor that you appreciate
- Take a photo of you and your Pastor holding your sign and share it on social media using the hashtag #myPASTORocks
- Be sure your post is public so that we can see it - Posts from private profiles or shared to "friends only" will not be entered
- Tag at least 3 other people, asking them to do the same! Pastors tagged in these posts will be entered for prizes, including Amazon gift cards, Beats Headphones, \$200 Visa gift card, WPH Digital Download of the Wesley Bible Commentary set, WPH Digital Download of the Wesley Bible Studies set, Grand Prize of 2023 Gathering registration/accommodation for a pastor and spouse in Orlando, Florida

Examples of social media posts:

- #myPASTORocks Pastors name is among the best listeners I know
- #myPASTORocks Pastors name is the one who showed up with a kind word and a basket of groceries after my surgeries
- #myPASTORocks Pastors name is an encouragement to so many people
- #myPASTORocks Pastors name is at most of the basketball games at our local high school, and a mentor to many of the coaches in our area!
- #myPASTORocks Pastors name has kept up with my life even during Covid



**Thank you for opening this extra letter.
It says a lot about how much you care for your pastor!**

We are so excited about your interest in doubling your dollars to support your pastor! The Thrive Financial Initiative (TFI) provides a wonderful opportunity for you to bless your pastor with a matching grant and participate with them on a journey to increase biblical financial wisdom.

Overview - TFI was designed to address the economic challenges facing clergy. Common challenges are student loan debt, retirement, low salary, medical bills, etc. While these challenges vary from one person to the next, in our research most of our Wesleyan pastors identify at least one of these challenges as significant.

Does it work? – Yes, this program has been proven and tested for more than four years. We have testimony after testimony of pastors and churches benefiting from the matching grants and the biblical financial wisdom education. You can visit www.wesleyan.org/tfi to read some of them.

Thanks to the generous grant from the Lilly Endowment and the partnership of several districts, many TFI participants have received \$2,500 checks at their District Conferences.

How can our church participate? – Great question ;-) and it's really simple.

- 1. Gather your Thrive Team** – *A Thrive Team is a pastor and at least two key laity who agree to work together each year to learn more about the economic challenges facing their pastor, and to work on financial learning journeys that benefit the pastor and congregation.*
- 2. Choose Thrive Well-Being Investment** – *To earn a matching grant the local church makes a new investment in their pastor's financial well-being (e.g., help reduce debt, give a raise, larger pension contribution, etc.).*
- 3. Complete Two Thrive Financial Learning Journeys** – *For example, year 1 participants complete Ron Blue's "God Owns It All" DVD curriculum and "Master Your Money" book.*
- 4. Submit Thrive Well-Being Report** – *To receive a matching grant, the Thrive Team must submit a simple Well-Being Development Report (WDR) near the end of the conference year. Due to Covid, we have extended the deadline.*
- 5. Receive Thrive Matching Grant** – *Thrive Teams that complete all the requirements each year can earn a matching grant for their pastor. The Grant will match at least \$1,000 of the churches' new investment and often we can match even more.*

You can visit www.wesleyan.org/tfi to sign up and learn more about doubling your dollars to support your pastor.

Questions? – After reading this letter you may have several questions, which is totally normal. We are

confident that by visiting the TFI website, many of those questions will be answered. However, if you have a question, you can reach out to your District Coordinator (the list of them is available on the TFI page). If you don't find your district, please send us an email to tfi@wesleyan.org or you may call us directly at (317) 774-3917. Please keep in mind that we are here to help!

Thank you again for supporting your pastor so well and giving us the opportunity to partner with you in this Thrive Financial Initiative adventure. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Rev. Johanna Rugh
TFI Director



Dr. Mark Rennaker
TFI Grant Director



#myPASTORrocks



FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID



- THROUGH COVID -

THANK YOU!

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i just

wanted

to say

THANK YOU!



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Many pastors and church staff members have been financially impacted during the COVID-19 crisis.

Get ready to bless YOUR pastor with a FREE \$250 Amazon gift card — **it's EASY!**

To access this sheet, visit www.BlessYourPastor.org/123

Bless Your Pastor is ready to partner with your church today!

It's as easy as **1-2-3!**

1 CHOOSE which FREE 50 Creative Ways to Bless Your Pastor ideas list you'll share with families in your church, and make sure everyone is given this great opportunity to show their love and appreciation! You can share the ideas list through your church bulletin/newsletter, email or snail mail — you choose!

*50 Creative Ways
to Bless Your Pastor*

[8.5 x 11 sheet](#)
[2 sided bulletin insert](#)
[trifold brochure](#)

*50 Creative Ways to
Bless Your Pastor & Staff*

[8.5 x 11 sheet](#)
[2 sided bulletin insert](#)
[trifold brochure](#)

*Suggested letter or email
from the church board*

[Bless Your Pastor](#)
[Bless Your Pastor & Staff](#)

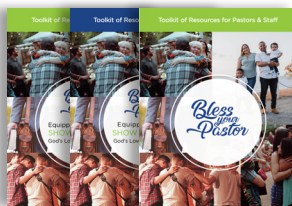
2 COLLECT your Bless Your Pastor Appreciation Offering. A great time to collect your offering could be during Pastor Appreciation Month in October, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or for your pastor's anniversary or birthday. Make that time extra special for your pastor!

3 COMPLETE the easy-to-fill-out gift card form at BlessYourPastor.org/giftcard and submit it. A \$250 Amazon gift card will be winging its way to your senior pastor soon! **How easy is that?**

Additional Bless Your Pastor & Other Financial Health Free Resources

**Financial
Health** 
Solutions for Pastors & Churches

NAE Financial Health Website
Assessment surveys, resources and
online training for pastors,
church boards & leaders
NAEfinancialhealth.org



Bless Your Pastor Toolkit
Social media images, training video,
template letters and more
BlessYourPastor.org

**Bless
your
Finances**

Personal Finances Training
Stay-at-home, interactive video training
for individuals and couples seeking
to improve their financial health
BlessYourFinances.org

*Bless Your Pastor is a grant-funded movement and national media campaign organized by the National Association of Evangelicals to empower, encourage and equip Christians and churches to show and share God's love for their pastor and church staff. In 2020, the NAE has free Bless Your Pastor materials for churches from all denominations and affiliations and \$250 Amazon gift cards for 1,000 senior pastors in the United States/Canada. This movement is co-sponsored by many national denominations, associations, businesses, ministries, broadcasters and publications. For more information, visit BlessYourPastor.org

Help your pastor receive a FREE \$250 Amazon gift card in 3 easy steps! 1. Choose which list of 50 Ways you'll share (available at BlessYourPastor.com/123) 2. Collect an Appreciation Offering. 3. Complete the BlessYourPastor.org/giftcard form.

FAITHFULLY PRAY

The best way to help your pastor and church staff is to pray for:

- Intimacy with God
- Marital love and unity
- Spiritual protection
- Divine guidance
- Emotional and physical well-being
- Parenting skills
- Genuine friendships
- Financial provisions
- Daily wisdom
- Personal encouragement
- Helpful mentors
- Effective ministry
- Time management
- Quality study and prayer times
- Helpful training and books
- Leadership skills

FONDNESS

- Let them know how God is specifically using them to bless, help and teach you to follow God.
- Remember their birthdays and anniversaries with a card, gift or social media post.
- Show appreciation for their strengths and give grace in their weaknesses.

FREEDOM

- Give their spouses the freedom to be themselves and to find their own niche at the church.
- Let their children "be kids," care about them, and pray for them.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

- Prepare meals or baked goods for them (ask about favorite meals or certain foods to avoid).
- Give them gift cards for restaurants, fast food or coffee shops.

- Give them food from your garden, orchard, hunting or fishing trips.
- Invite them and their families to your home or a restaurant for a meal.
- Invite them and their families to go fishing, sailing, camping, hunting, to the gym, concerts, plays or sporting events. Offer to cover some or all of the costs.
- Offer your pastor and staff members sports, concert or event tickets.
- If you have a vacation home, timeshare, recreational vehicle or camping gear, offer to let them use it.
- Share frequent flyer miles that can be used for conferences, vacation, mission trips or holiday travel.
- Offer them the use of your dependable vehicle for a holiday family trip or vacation.

FREELY SHARE

Share your skills and time to help with any of the following items:

- Babysitting
- Auto maintenance and repair
- Home repairs, maintenance and projects
- Decorating, painting and wallpapering
- Haircuts and beauty treatments
- Medical, dental and chiropractic care
- Lawn and garden upkeep
- Legal, estate and financial services
- Tutoring or lessons for children

If needed, communicate in advance if there are any out-of-pocket costs the pastor or church staff members will need to cover (e.g., parts for a car repair or materials for home repair).

FINANCES

Faithfully give to your church, so your pastor and church staff can be properly compensated. Beyond the church salary, the Lord may prompt certain individuals to provide personal funding to help with any of the following items:

- Bless Your Pastor & Staff offering
- Marriage retreat costs
- Christian camp fees
- Back to school fees, clothing or supplies
- Children's college tuition
- Mission trips
- Lessons or tutoring
- Family or couple's vacation or getaway
- Pastor's conference, seminar or training
- Seminary courses or sabbatical
- Student loan debt
- Retirement savings
- Medical expenses

PAY IT FORWARD

Most people have heard about "paying it forward." Do you know you can also pay it forward by passing along possessions you no longer use or need? Possible items could include appliances, furniture, musical equipment, clothing, sports equipment or electronics. Ask if the items you may have available are actually needed and wanted by the pastor or church staff members. Also, be sure they are in good condition and will not need costly repairs.

Note: Please be prepared to graciously allow your pastor or church staff to decline anything that you offer. Also note that most items mentioned here are not normally tax-deductible to the giver, but are to be given out of gratefulness to God for what he has given to you.