



Rooted in Love

by *Rev. Holly S. Brauner*

I have been blessed in my life with a close family growing up, one tightly connected to First Church in Swampscott, where I learned about tithing and service in God's name. Growing up, the act of contributing to the church endeavors was just what we did as part of the community. Mission efforts and outreach have always been very close to my heart because of my travels, as a young child and then later with Habitat for Humanity in Latin America. I see these efforts as ***rooted in love*** and central to the purpose of church - the care for the widow, orphan and all who experience suffering, and work toward a more just world.

As your new settled pastor, I'm just getting to know you -- your hopes and dreams, your concerns and how you respond to God's call to service. I'm excited to see where God leads us and where we go from here, well nourished by God's constant and abiding love. And I'm committed to walk with you

through all the times ahead, wherever curiosity and courage takes us together. Part of my commitment is financial, so I give back a portion of my salary to the good work of this church.

Together we can do so much in God’s name, sharing God’s love beyond these walls. I look forward to learning how we might be transformed by investing further in opportunities of love and justice.

As I have long since learned in my lifetime, the return on these investments so far has been out of this world!

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
16,000	1,333	27	40	53	67	133
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	62	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

