

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

One of Jesus' great teaching parables involves a sower who cast seed along the ground. The sower hoped the seeds would sprout, grow, and bear good fruit. Some seeds did just that, producing a great harvest. But others, Jesus said, fell among thorns and, though they began to grow, these good plants were quickly choked out. Jesus said the thorns were "the cares of the world and the lure of wealth" (Matthew 13:22).

In a culture where having "enough" seems to have become a never-ending pursuit, Jesus' parable remains incredibly relevant. Many of us are chasing the American dream in ways that lead to stress, anxiety, and fear—thorns that can rob us of the ability to enjoy the abundant lives of purpose that God intended for us.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, over the next seven weeks, we will be having a church wide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and a small group study that starts Wednesday, October 14th. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges and how, by being radically generous, they have grown spiritually. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal, financial commitments as an offerings to God through our church in the coming year, by filling out 2021 Giving Commitment Cards and returning them to the church office in-person or via mail, emailing to our Financial Secretary (finance@larchmontumc.org), or dropping into the "First Fruits" box during our worship service on Consecration Sunday. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on Sunday, November 8th. And, we'll celebrate our generosity and spiritual growth on November 29th, Celebration Sunday (and, coincidentally, Thanksgiving Sunday!). (See the schedule below.)

If you won't be attending in-person service on Consecration Sunday, November 8th, we ask you return you 2021 Commitment Card by Friday, November 6th.

We hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

For more information visit our LUMC website, www.larchmontumc.org, click on "Financial Stewardship Resources."

Your Financial Stewardship Committee,
Gary Chiaverotti, Laura Calvert, Jonathan Clark, & Rev. Scott Rimer

Schedule of Events

October 14 th	Small Group Book Study Lesson 1
October 18 th	Laity Sunday – Sermon: "When Dreams Become Nightmares" v. "Wisdom and Finance"
October 21 st	Small Group Book Study lesson 2
November 1 st	Sermon - "Cultivating Contentment"
October 28 ^h	Small Group Book Study lesson 3
November 4 th	Small Group Book Study lesson 4
November 8 th	Consecration Sunday – Sermon "Defined by Generosity"
November 29 th	Celebration Sunday with Catered Luncheon (COVID Rules permitting)