



FLING WIDE THE DOOR
Embracing All In Christ

Last week you received your invitation to the ***Fling Wide the Door*** All Congregation Event being held at the Mooring Line Drive Campus on Friday, March 24th from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. If you haven't yet done so, please respond to this invitation by indicating your plans for attendance to Gina Fidler at gina@naplesemmanuel.org or (239) 261-0894 xt. 303. It is our goal to provide everyone an opportunity to hear about the full scope of the campaign and our vision for the future of Emmanuel.



OUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP GOAL \$200,000 (In additional annual giving for 2023)

In last week's Handout, we shared the long-term Capital Campaign Project goals included in our ***Fling Wide the Door*** effort. This week we focus on our short-term annual stewardship that funds the day-to-day ministry we all love and share here at Emmanuel.

In an effort to simplify giving for you this year, we will be calling our Annual Stewardship Appeal ***Fling Wide the Door*** also. We will use a single Promise Card with a section for your short-term Annual Stewardship Gift and a section for your long-term Capital Campaign gift.

Our Ministry Funding Plan designed to help us be good stewards of your short-term annual stewardship gifts will increase by a little more than \$200,000 this year to help us cover three New Key Ministry Initiatives.

**NEW MINISTRY INITIATIVE NO. 1:
SUSTAINING MINISTRY EXCELLENCE**

A necessary part of sustaining and growing a ministry of excellence is meeting the demand of growing costs and needs of the ministry. Like many businesses and families, our

congregation experienced rising costs in 2022 of insurance, cost of living, utilities, and maintenance. This increase will directly affect the cost to sustain our ongoing ministry of worship, pastoral care, faith formation, and more. Through your generosity, we will be able to meet our obligations and sustain a ministry of excellence that enables the people of Emmanuel to be engaged, equipped, and empowered to share the gospel throughout the world.

NEW MINISTRY INITIATIVE NO. 2: GROWING FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

As we work to create opportunities to worship and serve, we know that faith formation is a critical part of making and growing disciples. We have plans to add additional faith formation classes and events throughout our communities to meet the spiritual needs of those who call Emmanuel home and new faces who are getting to know us. Your increased generosity to the annual fund this year will help ensure we are making disciples and growing faith.

NEW MINISTRY INITIATIVE NO. 3: REENGAGING & EXPANDING RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Covid taught us that we are created for community, and we have missed being together. As we continue to emerge on the other side of the pandemic, we plan to increase our efforts around growing the community and building relationships with one another. New retreats are planned for groups like the Alpha class and the grief class to name a few. These will include videos and workbooks. To expand on our ability to build and strengthen relationships that transform lives, we need additional funding in this area of our annual fund in 2023.



Step 3: Place God First in Your Budgeting and Spending

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. Jesus said, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6:33) Many experience difficulty, giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and The Church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.