



## Efficient Ways to Give to HCC

*Note that these tips are meant as General Information and may not be suitable for any particular individual's own financial situation. Please consult your financial advisor and/or do your own research before taking any action.*

*These strategies are not only good for Building Campaign Pledge fulfillments but can also be used effectively for your regular tithes and offerings.*

**1. Appreciated Securities.** If you own stocks, mutual funds, or other securities that have increased in value since you acquired them, donating them directly to the church can be a tax-efficient way to give. You can receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the securities, and you won't owe capital gains tax on the appreciation. **This only applies to long-term capital gains (i.e., if you've held the asset for more than one year).** Contact your brokerage firm or the HCC Treasurer ([treasurer@hcchome.org](mailto:treasurer@hcchome.org)) for more information.

**2. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs).** If you are 70½ or older and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you can directly transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA to a qualified charity, like a church. This donation can count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD) and is excluded from your taxable income. Contact your IRA custodian for more information.

**3. “Bunching” Multiple Years of Charitable Donations Together.** With the standard tax deduction so high now, it can often be difficult to have enough deductions to make it more beneficial to itemize. One strategy is to do “bunching” - combine two (or more) years of your planned charitable contributions into one tax year so that you will have more deductions than the standard deduction,

making it worthwhile to itemize. Then in the other tax years, you take advantage of the high standard deduction when you have fewer charitable contributions and would not be able to itemize.

**4. Establishing or Adding to Your Own Charitable Donor Advised Fund (DAF).** Similar to “Bunching Multiple Years of Charitable Contributions Together” above, you can donate multiple years’ worth of appreciated assets to your own DAF in one tax year, realize the total charitable contribution amount as a tax deduction in that one year if you itemize, not pay the long-term capital gain taxes on the donations, and then take years to issue “grants” from your DAF to the charitable organizations you would have normally supported with your cash or check donations and do so at the same frequency. Contact any of the big-name financial services firms for more information.

**5. PayPal Giving Fund (PPGF).** Donating via PPGF is an easy way for a donor to put their donation on a credit card while the church does not have to pay the typical credit card fees. This allows the donor to earn their credit card rewards while the church gets 100% of the donation. This should only be used if the donor is planning on paying off their credit card bill in full every month and will not carry a balance. Note: Donations to PPGF by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month will be paid to the church by the 25<sup>th</sup> of that month. ***In order for HCC to receive funds by the Mattress Firm closing date, PPGF donations should be made by October 15, 2023.*** Refer to HCC’s “Online Giving” webpage for more information.

*Join us for an open Q&A session next Sunday, Aug 20th if you have more questions on the information above. Bring your lunch and join us from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in a room that will be announced in next Sunday’s bulletin.*

Each Sunday in August, we will feature a brief meditation from a HCC pastor aimed at encouraging prayer and participation in our Purchase & Renovation Project

## **Storing Up Your Treasures in Eternity**

Pastor Joseph Cheng

This year, the church granted me a three-month sabbatical. I returned to Taiwan to visit my mother and family. During this period, one of my elementary school classmates, upon learning of my return to Taiwan, intentionally organized a reunion with our former classmates. Even though we hadn't seen each other in over fifty years, having transformed from innocent children to mature adults, our reunion was joyful and full of camaraderie. One of the female classmates, who had been our class monitor and sat next to me in elementary school, happened to have returned from California, USA. After completing her university studies and obtaining a master's degree in the United States, she got married and built a successful career there with her husband. Since we were seated next to each other in elementary school and now both live in the United States, we had similar topics to discuss.

She told me that this year, their family paid two million eight hundred thousand in taxes alone. I initially thought she was referring to New Taiwan Dollars, but it turned out she was talking about US Dollars. She mentioned that she and her husband were troubled because her husband was nearing eighty years old and she was in her sixties. They were growing older and wondered how to handle the properties they owned. Passing the management to their children wasn't an option as their child was a doctor and had their own career, not feeling the need to take on the family business. Therefore, they frequently made donations to organizations in need in society or to help impoverished wanderers. Although their actions were charitable, they only addressed the immediate needs of these groups and individuals, providing no long-term solutions.

When the Houston Chinese Church was first established, it mainly consisted of Christian students and young families who had come to the US for studies from Hong Kong and Taiwan. Despite being young and having limited income, driven by their fervent love for the Lord and people, they established the church and, within a few years, acquired land and built a church on it through their faith and generous contributions. During that time, God used this church to welcome the influx of Chinese students who

came to study in Houston. The selfless dedication and offering of these Christians at the beginning led to the blessing and transformation of nearly four decades and thousands of students and families. Through this church, they came to know Christ, received salvation, had their lives changed, became children of God, and gained eternal life.

As the church approaches its fiftieth year, God has prepared our hearts for a larger vision of the Gospel, ushering in and initiating a new generation's work and mission. During the process of unfolding and advancing these visions, God granted us an unexpected gift—an adjacent plot of land measuring ten acres, along with a mattress company building three times larger than our current church, to meet the future development needs of the church's ministry. The cost of purchasing this property is ten million twenty thousand, and the transaction process is urgent, necessitating everyone's care, prayers, and contributions to successfully realize the vision and goal of expanding the church through acquiring land.

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21*

## English Adult Sunday School – Fall 2023

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

This Sunday marks the beginning of the fall quarter featuring four new Sunday School classes. Feel free to try a new class as we study God's Word together and learn more about how to apply truths from the Bible to our lives!

### **Systematic Theology Survey (Part 1 of 3)**

**Room 115**

*Led by Akhil Shenoy, Joe Fang, Erik Wiest, Dan Tung, Greg Krafka, and Jason Tarn*

This survey course will provide you with a strong theological foundation for Christian life and ministry. We will explore key doctrines across the spectrum of systematic theology. In Part One of three consecutive courses, we will cover The Doctrine of Scripture, The Existence and Attributes of God, the Doctrine of Creation, and the Doctrine of Providence.

### **Old Testament Survey (Part 1 of 6)**

**Trailer 411**

*Led by Henry Ow, Joseph Goh, & Bill Huang*

In the 2-year Old Testament (OT) Survey track, we will go through the 39 books of the OT by providing a high level overview of each book and its main ideas/themes. The OT helps us understand God's character and is the foundation for the New Testament. Through the OT, we also learn of God's promises and how they point to Jesus. This 12-week fall quarter, we'll journey through the pentateuch (Gen thru Deuteronomy), which serves as the foundation for God's covenant with Israel. The format of the class will be a blend of lecture, videos, discussion, and sharing. We hope that you can join!

### **New Testament Survey (Part 1 of 3)**

**Trailer 412/414**

*Led by Jonathan Huang, Alex Wu, James Hsia, & John Hsieh*

In part one of the New Testament Survey track, we'll be taking a big picture look at the books of Hebrews, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. Join us as we explore the biographies of Jesus' life as well as how the gospel initially spread from Jerusalem onward through the Spirit-led missionary activities of God's people.

### **Half Time: Moving from Success to Significance**

**Room 113**

*Led by Fred Tow, Windsor Lee, Paul Chung, & Peter Khoo*

Midlife doesn't have to be a time of crisis. It can be a catalyst for purpose, impact, and growth. Second half can be the best years of our life. This class provides guidance through transition and the insight to propel our life on a new course away from mere success to true significance. We will learn how to live what we believe by using our time and talent for God and others. Instead of counting the years, may we make the years count. May we finish well.