

# Build Your Stewardship Pizza Plan

*A printable workbook for engagement, generosity, and connection.*

**How to use this handout:** Work through one layer at a time. Circle things that look interesting, check things you want to try, cross out things you have tried that haven't fit, add more ideas, and write a plan that fits your church. Keep the tone honest, hopeful, and non-shaming. Be as specific as you can.

**1. Crust: It is the starting point-  
This is both your Foundation. Why your ministry matters.**

<b>Naming Reality:</b>	
<b>When does our slump in giving happen?</b>	
<b>When does it improve?</b>	
<b>What is missing during that season?</b>	
<b>Who is usually gone?</b>	
<b>Who sticks around?</b>	
<b>What expenses continue during the slump?</b>	
<b>What is our narrative (what do we say to the congregation about money and the slump?)</b>	

**Our financial reality in one sentence**

*Example: During the summer, **our giving is down** because people go to the lake **but our expenses are up** because of air conditioning. **We need the building to be air conditioned** so that we can make a comfortable space to the daycare, Bible studies, VBS, and staff **so Jesus can continue to be shared.***

Practice writing your sentence.

## 2. Sauce: The sauce is the MESSAGE.

Your congregation should hear clarity, gratitude, and invitation - not panic.

This is where most congregations get stuck. They only talk about money when they are scared. The message needs to be warm, simple, clear, and repeated.

**Question:** What simple message will we repeat?

### Sauce Option 1: The Gentle Reminder

As summer schedules fill with lake days, family trips, ball games, and reunions, we give thanks for the gift of rest and renewal. We also invite you to remember that the ministry of our congregation continues all summer long. Worship, care, outreach, building expenses, staff support, and community ministry continue even when many of us are away. Your steady giving helps us stay faithful in every season.

### Sauce Option 2: The Mission Message

Summer is a season of movement, but the mission of the church keeps going. Every gift helps us continue worship, pastoral care, community support, and the everyday ministry that makes this congregation a place of grace and God's love.

### Sauce Option 3: The Very Direct Message

Summer giving often drops, but our expenses do not. Please consider setting up recurring giving or preparing your summer offering before you travel. Your generosity helps us avoid financial stress and continue ministry with confidence.

### Sauce Option 4: The Lake/camp/ Message

Before you head to the lake, we invite you to make a plan for your summer offering. Whether you are in the pew, at the cabin, on the road, or watching online, the Holy Spirit is with you and you loved and still part of our church community.

### What tone do we want?

Encouraging

Honesty

Grateful

Hopeful

Practical

Invitational

### What tone do we want to avoid?

Shame

Panic

Desperation

Scolding

Guilt

Apology for asking

### Our main message

*Example:*

*We are not asking people to choose between summer/the lake and the church. We just want to be here and healthy when you return.*

**Draft a 30-second invitation:** *What could someone say in worship, a newsletter, or a short video?*

**Choose 1-3 communication tools for the Message you just wrote.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Summer letter (Late May)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin note series   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leader announcement  | <input type="checkbox"/> Temple talk- naming 1 item in the budget each week before offering (Money follows Mission) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling: Why this church community matters: On screen at beginning of worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Text Alerts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Gallery Walk in church (contest, or framing/gallery opening)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media posts   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email Photo series   | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Asks  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Text reminders   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School Art (turned into postcards and mailed out)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving statement hand written note   | <input type="checkbox"/> Short videos/reels   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Postcards  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter article   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> QR code to a Blog  |

**3. Cheese: The glue that holds it all together – Steady Support**  
**How can we encourage consistent giving?**

How will you keep people engaged and informed without making them want to “*Unsubscribe*”.

**Choose 1-3 connection practices:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly summer devotion  | <input type="checkbox"/> Online worship link   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer list by email  | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer postcard (for them and us)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family worship bags to go   | <input type="checkbox"/> Short weekly video- summer check in   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photos from summer ministry sent back to share                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor worship - is there a central campground? Can you go to them and bring a worship experience? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Worship to go: stop by the church and pick up your Pizza Box to go | <input type="checkbox"/> Flat Jesus  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple summer Bible reading plan  | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone calls to seasonal members   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake/cabin blessing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**Our consistency plan:**

*This summer, we will keep people connected by...*

**Who needs to receive this ongoing connection?**

*Think about lake families, snowbirds, young families, elders, visitors, and people on the edge of participation. Especially those who may not return without connection.*

**WRITE THE GROUP OF INDIVIDUAL NAMES HERE:**

**4. Toppings: Choose Your Strategies**

**Toppings are the practical ideas/tools you choose. Pick only what fits.**

**Too many toppings can make the whole thing hard to serve.**

<b>Giving toppings</b>	<b>Engagement toppings</b>	<b>Communication toppings</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage automatic giving	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly three-sentence update
<input type="checkbox"/> Give from the lake campaign(envelopes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake/cabin blessing	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer photo wall
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer giving challenge	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer hymn sing	<input type="checkbox"/> Where have you seen God this summer?
<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-summer giving update	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake hymn sing	Assign each family a week/a day.
<input type="checkbox"/> Venmo Text Reminders	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a month Smore Kits	<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook reminder posts
<input type="checkbox"/> One-time summer offering invitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee fellowship Sundays	<input type="checkbox"/> Text message reminders
<input type="checkbox"/> Thank-you notes to regular givers	<input type="checkbox"/> Children send along activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Align all your media for continuity
<input type="checkbox"/> Dollar Boxes and kids noisy offerings	<input type="checkbox"/> Service projects ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> Make and mail a summer calendar
<input type="checkbox"/> Story-based giving moment	<input type="checkbox"/> Potluck or picnic	<input type="checkbox"/> Member testimony postcards
<input type="checkbox"/> Online giving instructions	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer partner program]	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> QR Codes	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Toppings**

Our Topping #1

Our Topping #2

Our Topping #3

**5. Bake It: Set a Timer**  
**Put Dates on the Calendar, set a schedule.**

What will we do?	Who will help?	When will it happen?	What is needed?
<b>First step this week:</b>			
<b>Person we need to involve:</b>			
<b>Date we will put on the calendar today:</b>			

*Share your plans? WRITE IT DOWN*

**6. Delivery: Serve it/ Dish it Up**

Serving the pizza means inviting the congregation into the plan with confidence and care. The tone matters as much as the strategy.

**Practice presentation and Conversation (2-3 minutes each)**

***YOU CANNOT DO THIS WORK ALONE!***

*Share this with people and invite others to join in. Practice your plan out loud. What will you share with your partners in ministry...I your council, stewardship team, or congregation?*

## Final Pizza Plan Summary

<b>Crust/Foundation</b>	<i>Our summer reality is...</i>
<b>Sauce/Communication</b>	<i>We will communicate by...</i>
<b>Cheese/Connection</b>	<i>We will stay connected through...</i>
<b>Toppings/Strategies</b>	<i>We will try...</i>
<b>Bake/Calendar</b>	<i>We will begin on...</i>
<b>Deliver/Serve/Invitation</b>	<i>We will invite people by saying...</i>