

## **April Showers Bring May Flowers**

**Remember the saying, “April showers will bring May flowers?”** We might want to amend that as the first few weeks of May have seen our country deluged with storms dumping copious amounts of rain across our country. Yet it is true that in order to have the blooms of May you have to have the rains of April. Flowers don’t bloom where there is no water. So we welcome the rains of spring.

**Another popular saying is, “Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?”** I will let you settle that but we know with flowers and crops unless you plant the seed first you will never have the flower or the harvest.

That same principle is true when it comes to giving. We give because of our love of God and in obedience to His commands. Yet God promises that when we give He will bless our gift. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” So in order to reap you must sow. We don’t give to reap but it is a natural by product that we receive God’s blessing.

Later in the same passage Paul writes, “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

When you give to OUR CHURCH your gift is used to advance the kingdom of God. Your generosity is literally sprinkled not just in our city but around the world. Others thank God for the blessings they receive without ever realizing it was you sitting there in the chairs that made it happen. So, today as we take up this offering let’s sow seeds of generosity for a harvest of righteousness resulting in thanksgiving to God!