

Stewardship FAQ / a.k.a. "What's all this about pledging?"

Why should I make a pledge?

Pledges are important for two reasons: (1) they help the church leaders make financial decisions for the coming year, and (2) it is a way to put your faith into action. By making a pledge, you are making a personal commitment to share your own blessings and participate in the life of the church. Without the generous financial support of all who are a part of the St. Paul's community, it would not be possible to support the staff who lead our congregation or to maintain the facilities we enjoy—in short without everyone's contribution of **time, talent, and treasure** we could not fulfill the mission to which God has called us.

How do I make a pledge?

You can bring your completed pledge cards to worship with you on November 10. If you will not be in attendance that morning, we hope that you will mail/deliver it to the church office in advance. Pledge cards are available on the reverse of this FAQ, in the pews, and in your offering envelope booklet.

Who will know the amount I pledge?

Pledge commitments as well as pledge payments are recorded by Joan Trimble, Financial Secretary. As has been the practice at St. Paul's for many years, no others, including the clergy, have knowledge of individual pledge amounts.

How much should I pledge?

We recognize this is a personal decision, and suggest a possible starting point is to reflect on the blessings you have received in life and what St. Paul's or our community means to you.

No, really, how much should I pledge?

In the Bible, those who chose to "tithes" committed themselves to giving 10% of their harvest to God. In today's world, though, 10% to the church is an amount that might create financial stress rather than a cheerful gift to God. The UCC suggests proportional giving: committing yourself to a specific proportion of your income. The percentage depends on your situation. While some members may be capable and comfortable with 10%, others may be more comfortable with 5% or 2%. The important thing is to make a commitment—and to give joyfully!

Are pledges the church's only source of income?

Our operating budget consists of pledges (committed and expected), investment income, fundraising, loose plate offerings, and miscellaneous income. Through the end of September, about 67% of our operations budget in 2019 has been funded by pledges (offering envelopes).

What happens if I can't give the amount I pledge?

Your pledge can be changed or cancelled at any time by contacting Financial Secretary Joan Trimble. There is no legal liability for your pledge, the church will not pursue unfulfilled pledges.

Does the United Church of Christ help support St. Paul's?

Actually, it's the other way around. We support the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC and the national UCC each year so that ministry and outreach might be possible in struggling areas of our denomination, nation, and world. One of the commitments we make as a church is to set aside 10% of our income for this wider mission of the UCC.

I am not a member; am I supposed to pledge?

We hope that you'll consider it! It's a meaningful way to affirm your support for the ministry of St. Paul's and to help us be an effective servant of Christ in the world.

—Board of Deacons

**ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Name: _____

Address: _____

As a joyful response to God's generosity, I commit myself to give this year for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ:

\$ _____ each week/month (Annual Total \$ _____)

_____ of my time.

_____ of my talents.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

*This is your personal commitment. If your circumstances change, it is understood your pledge may need to change as well.

Pledge card can be included in your offering envelope.

TIME AND TALENT PLEDGE

**ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



I would like to share my time and talents through the ministry of this church in the following ways:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> make casseroles | <input type="checkbox"/> clean | <input type="checkbox"/> coordinate volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organize records | <input type="checkbox"/> paint | <input type="checkbox"/> serve the Atkinson shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> provide child care | <input type="checkbox"/> help in office | <input type="checkbox"/> assemble church mailings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> host coffee hour | <input type="checkbox"/> move stuff | <input type="checkbox"/> assemble worship bulletins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> donate flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> greet/usher | <input type="checkbox"/> set up/cleanup for church gatherings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tend the garden | <input type="checkbox"/> visit the sick | <input type="checkbox"/> help count offering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> donate food for pantry | <input type="checkbox"/> teach/help Sunday school | <input type="checkbox"/> grounds upkeep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> choir | <input type="checkbox"/> orchestra | <input type="checkbox"/> special music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building repair | <input type="checkbox"/> stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> finance | <input type="checkbox"/> fund raising | <input type="checkbox"/> historical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> memorial | <input type="checkbox"/> pastoral relations | <input type="checkbox"/> music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Ed | <input type="checkbox"/> worship | |
| Boards: | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustees | <input type="checkbox"/> Elders |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Deacons |

other _____

Name: _____