



Frequently Asked Questions

How does my financial investment support my values?

Your financial support will help our values come alive as we live into our Vision and Mission:

The **Vision** of First UU Church is to transform and heal ourselves and our world through reason and love.

With love at the center, the **Mission** of this church is to fulfill its vision by

- **Creating community** through caring, nurturing, and celebrating
- **Working for justice** through learning, reflecting, and doing
- **Engaging diversity** through welcoming, listening, and empowering

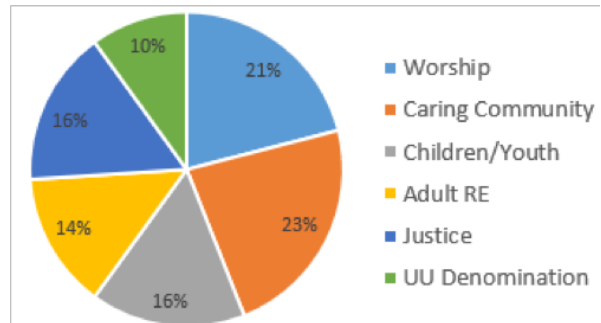
Why do I have to pledge? Can't I just donate?

A pledge is a promise of your support (donations) for the coming year. It helps us plan and be responsible stewards of our collective finances. In order for the Board and staff to draft a values-based budget, we need to set realistic expectations based on accurate information. Your promise—your pledge—by May 15th will help make this happen. The congregation will vote on the final budget at the Annual Meeting on June 2nd.

What is a values-based budget?

Bills and budgets are a fact of life. We all have them. Some bills are not optional – utilities, phone, insurance, etc. Other bills come with more choices. We decide what to support through the decisions we make. Here is a breakdown of our budget by program area:

A values-based budget includes the essential bills and includes our choices on how and what to fund on the next level. For us, a values-based budget adds fair compensation for our hard-working, dedicated staff who make our work possible as well as money to ensure that if the roof starts to leak, we can fix it. But it goes beyond the day-to-day expenses to ensure we can meet our larger vision.



- Our Justice Action Ministry (JAM) and its social justice work in the community.
- Our Whole Lives (OWL)— a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula that empowers our children and youth to make informed decisions about their bodies and lives.
- Our music program that complements Sunday worship by feeding our hearts and lifting our spirits.
- The Beloved Conversation program that helps us to engage in respectful and meaningful dialogue about race relations.
- The Rainbow Connexions Group that provides LGBTQIA individuals with an avenue to create community in the church and to affect change in the wider community.
- Our Pastoral Care teams that give heart to all we do by caring for us in time of need.

I'm not sure what amount is appropriate. Is there a suggested amount?

Many give at 5% or are working toward 5%. The enclosed Fair Share Guide is a helpful resource to consider.

The per-member cost of the operating budget is about \$1,500 a year. However, we recognize that this is not realistic for many members, and invite you to pledge a manageable amount that is meaningful to you. For others, your generosity allows everyone to give as they can.

How do I pay my financial commitment?

First UU accepts checks, bank drafts, credit card payments (on the website), and gifts of stock. To make it easy for you to give, you may use any of the following options:

- You may set up recurring monthly automatic deductions from your bank account, which provide steady funding for the church. Many individuals find this to be the most convenient method.
- You may pay your pledge in an annual lump sum, or break it up into monthly, quarterly or semi-annual donations payable during the church year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

In addition to my pledge, how can I help?

It's all about the three T's: Time. Treasure. Talent.

A church our size requires not only the financial commitment provided by your financial gifts, but also – and just as importantly – on the time and talent of our members and friends. To explore opportunities to get more involved in the fabric of our shared community, visit the Greeter's Stand in the lobby, attend a Path to Membership class (following all Sunday services) or talk with our ministers or Congregational Life Coordinator to find opportunities to engage.

You can also refer to the information in this packet about the Amazon Smile and Kroger Giving Programs, as well as the Acorn Society, which recognizes planned gifts such as bequests.

What if something changes, and I need to modify my pledge during the year?

We know that life can bring unexpected surprises. If you need to modify your pledge, contact bookkeeper Joe Voltolini at bookkeeper@firstuucolumbus.org or 614-267-4946 ext. 29. And, if you need pastoral help to navigate the unexpected or just lend a sympathetic ear, please contact Rev. Eric Meter at eric@firstuucolumbus.org or 614-267-4946 ext. 23.