



Capital News-- February 6, 2023

## Caring for God's House - Together



The dove's ribbons include the names of souls who've gone to heaven in the past year.

### Pledging and Donating

**What is a pledge:** Are you new to pledging? A pledge is a statement of your intentions for giving. It provides a way for both you and the church to plan. This helps each of us plan and participate in making next year's ministries and capital campaign happen.

The **pledge drive** is an annual invitation to the individuals in our church family to make a financial commitment as a part of their stewardship. By consolidating pledges, It gives the church an extended and informed view for planning the next year's commitments.

No money changes hands with a pledge. **So why pledge?** For you, it supports a spiritual discipline that helps you to plan and to integrate your responsive gratitude into your personal budgeting. For the church, it helps leadership forecast what resources, we as a congregation are putting together to do God's work through our church.

As you consider pledging, we know that this last year has been very difficult for all, from Covid-19 and other crises. Many of us have been severely impacted – even devastated and we invite you to lean on this congregation for healing.

Some considerations:

- ***What if I have financial challenges?*** – No problem. Many are concerned that they may encounter adversity and be unable to fulfill their pledge. While a pledge is a serious commitment, it is a planning tool, not a contract. Unexpected emergencies are not uncommon. Just let us know, and we can adjust just like you.
- ***My gift is too small*** – No. This congregation is grateful for any size pledge. Especially this year, we are sensitive to personal and financial crises that our friends and members are experiencing. Pledging – including the amount - is a spiritual act of faith between you and God and all gifts are received with gratitude.
- ***I'm not ready to pledge in the Fall*** – No problem. Many of our pledgers need to wait until another time in the year to understand their full financial situation. We welcome pledges on your timing.
- For those who are in a ***position of relative strength***, we invite you to consider how great a blessing your generous financial pledge will be to the future of the church. Join us as we lift one another and the community.

You can pledge in any of these ways!

1. Online at our website. Click on “Donate | Capital Campaign | Contribute Electronically | Donate Here” and make your donation directly.
2. On this same web page, you can click on the Pledge Card green button for a printable form. Print, complete and return to the church office.
3. Contact the church office for a card.

*Thank you for supporting our capital campaign & ministry together!*

## ***Pledging versus donating***

As noted, pledging is a “promise” with the considerations above. Donating is the actual commitment — the transfer of funds or assets. These donated funds allow the church to pay its bills.

For an individual perspective, there are multiple considerations on how you donate. They are basically different ways the government allows us to avoid paying them taxes, instead allowing that “tax money” to go to a charity.

The simplest is to write a check. But that may not be the best solution, tax-wise. Other various ways have pros and cons for both you and the church — with different different tax consequences. They may make a difference on the amount and timing when the money is received by the church.

For example, if you have an IRA, earnings may be “tax-deferred”. This gives you a chance to earn more money for a while. But, at some point (currently age 70 ½ to 72), you need to pay taxes on at least a portion, called a “required minimum deduction” or RMD. But there is an alternative: if you give the RMD to charity, you don’t have to pay those taxes, and instead the charity can benefit by getting some extra funding. You can make an RMD donation any time of the year.

**(NOTE: comments in these articles are intended to foster understanding – they are NOT tax advice! It is important for you to work with financial professionals before making donation choices. The federal tax book is over 800 pages of very small type! We all need help.)**

At the annual meeting, Maggie Harmon from the Presbyterian Foundation described several additional ways, and we’ll summarize those over the next several weeks to take some of the mystery out. Stay tuned.

***Thank you for your support!***

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