

# Pledge Drive FAQ

## What is the Pledge Drive?

The Pledge Drive is a crucial initiative for UUCS, as we rely primarily on the contributions of our members and friends to sustain the congregation. This annual campaign serves as our primary source of income, supporting various aspects such as congregation programs, staff salaries, and the maintenance of our beautiful buildings and grounds. During the Pledge Drive, members and friends commit to a financial contribution, known as a "Pledge," which aids in budgeting and responsible planning for the upcoming year. Your generosity plays a key role in keeping UUCS strong and advancing our collective mission.

## Who Should Pledge?

We encourage all members and friends of the congregation to participate in the annual pledge. Virtually everyone who regularly engages with UUCS chooses to make a pledge. If you have found inspiration, support, enrichment, and community within our congregation, we invite you to consider making a pledge.

## Why should I pledge if I already contribute to the Weekly Offering?

While contributions to the weekly offering, whether in person or online, are always appreciated, they alone are insufficient to cover our expenses. Additionally, as part of our mission, we "Share the Plate" by allocating half of the Sunday collection to a worthy cause. Making a pledge during the Pledge Drive ensures a more comprehensive financial support system for the ongoing needs of UUCS.

## How much should I pledge?

Determining your pledge is a personal decision, and we encourage you to reflect on the significance of UUCS in your life. To assist you, we provide the UUA's "[Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide](#)." This guide suggests a Fair Share percentage, allowing you to make a meaningful contribution that aligns with your capacity, irrespective of the actual dollar amount. Your commitment helps sustain the vibrant community we've built together.

## How do I make a pledge?

On our web page under the "Donate" option, select the "Make a Pledge" option. You can also use this link:

[Make a Pledge](#)

## When do I pay my pledge?

Pledges made in March 2024 should be paid between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025

## **What are my payment options?**

Pledges are usually paid periodically throughout the year. (Automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly payments are strongly preferred!)

### **Here are your payment options:**

#### **Payments Through your Financial Institution**

Most banks and credit unions offer a bill payment service free to their customers. To use this option, you'll likely have to start with a visit to your institution's website. You would first set up UUCS as a payee. Information needed to set up a payee is usually:

1. our name: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem,
2. our address: 5090 Center Street NE, Salem OR 97317,
3. our phone number: 503-364-0932.

When setting up a one-time or recurring payment, be sure to note that it is a pledge payment in the memo field.

Around 30% of our contributors use this method of paying their pledges. It fits well with our collection/deposit process and incurs no charges to either you or UUCS

#### **One-Time Payments via PayPal Giving Fund**

PayPal recognizes that UUCS is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit which allows the church to receive donations through the PayPal Giving Fund. Using this method for one-time pledge payments or donations is easy and it is free to you and to UUCS, so every given dollar goes to the church. However, to pay through the PayPal Giving Fund requires you to have a PayPal account. Also, you cannot schedule recurring payments using this approach.

[Pay via PayPal Giving](#)

#### **Payments via PayPal Pay Pledge Button**

To provide you with more convenient giving options, we offer the flexibility of making your pledge payments via PayPal without creating a PayPal account. This option allows you to establish a recurring payment schedule for added ease.

As we aim to maximize your contributions' impact, we invite you to consider including an additional 2.2% with your pledge. This small adjustment helps cover the fees associated with using this service, ensuring that a greater portion of your generosity directly supports the congregation.

By clicking the "Pay Pledge" button below you will be taken to our secure PayPal page.

[Pay Pledge](#)

## **What If I Cannot Pay My pledge?**

We certainly understand that life can bring unexpected changes. If you are not able to make your pledge amount please inform the office to adjust your pledge amount in confidence.

**Is My Pledge Tax Deductible?**

Yes, UUCS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit religious organization recognized by the IRS. The congregation issues end-of-year tax letters showing total contributions made.

**Why is the date of the pledge drive so far away from when I'm expected to start paying on my pledge?**

Starting the pledge drive in February gives us just enough time to present a budget for the congregation to approve during the annual meeting in May. After the pledge drive ends, the total then goes to the finance team to build a budget off of expected income. This budget then needs to go to the board to be approved and then back to the Finance team so that it can be presented to the congregation.

**I still have questions, who can answer them?**

If you still have questions feel free to contact the office ([office@uusalem.org](mailto:office@uusalem.org)). They can put you in contact with the pledge drive coordinator or a member of the Finance Team.