

What's the best way to give?

There are a number of ways you can give to SCUCC.

- **YOUR REGULAR OFFERING:** This is what you pledge to give on a regular basis to the church. It can be given weekly, or monthly or as a one-time annual sum. You can sign up for automatic electronic withdrawal, give by check or cash in the baskets during worship, or send to the office.
- **SPECIAL GIFTS:** We often have opportunities to make special gifts for mission projects and special fund-raising. These are usually advertised in IConnect or during worship. We have four annual mission offerings (with envelopes in the pews) during the year to support various aspects of the United Church of Christ's ministry in our state, nation and world.
- **EXTRA GIFTS:** The spiritual practice of generous giving invites us to expect ways God will bless us with abundance, and offer us an opportunity to bless others. You may receive unexpected income, or feel a nudge to make an extra gift above your normal offering. This "second-mile" giving carries very real spiritual blessings and can be a life-transforming experience. We invite you to watch for God's invitation for this!
- **MEMORIAL GIFTS AND BEQUESTS:** You can make a gift in memory of or honoring someone. You can designate your gift or it will be placed in the memorial fund and used as special needs arise. Consult with the Board of Financial Management for more information.
- **ENDOWMENT GIFTS:** Your support of SCUCC can continue as a legacy after your death by including SCUCC in your will. The Board of Financial Management can counsel you on ways to arrange your will and finances so that you can continue to make a difference in our community and world through SCUCC ministries

The meaning of life is to
find your gift,
The purpose of life is to
give it away.

Pablo Picasso



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INTRODUCTION to GIVING



at

SCOTTSDALE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

frequently asked questions

Why give to the church?

There are many different answers to this question. We live in an age where there are many benevolent organizations and non-profits doing similar work of what used to be the primary domain of the church. ***Churches specialize in spiritual growth, development and expression of individuals and families, plus contribute to the welfare of the local community in a variety of ways. Churches like SCUCC are also an integral part of global networks of service and support.***

When you give to SCUCC, you are giving to support this spiritual growth and welfare for individuals, families, communities, in our state, nation and world.

Our **SPACE, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, PROGRAMS** and **STAFF** are integral parts of our ministry and enable us to share our ministries with our community.

We also believe **GENEROUS GIVING** is a **SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**, one that offers a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. ***We understand that all have had first been given to us by God, who asks only that we pass the gift on to others.***

I give what I can regularly, why should I make a pledge?

Pledges are crucial to the planning and budgeting process at SCUCC. We work diligently to be faithful and transparent in our financial management. Being able to accurately anticipate our income for the year helps us to accurately budget.

Does SCUCC receive funds from the regional or national offices of the UCC?

No. Each local church in the United Church of Christ is responsible for its own sustainability. Special resources are occasionally available to offer aid and loans, but no financial support comes from the denomination. In the UCC, the local church supports the denomination. We send 10% of our income to the UCC annually. This is part of our regional, national and global network of service and support.

Does SCUCC have an endowment fund?

Yes. Thanks to many generous donors, SCUCC has an endowment fund that yields income annually. The use of the income from the fund is overseen by an Endowment Committee and the Council of Stewards, and is not used for general operating expenses.

Who knows how much I give?

All pledging and giving is confidential. The only people who see what people give are the Financial Secretary, the Office Manager, and the Pastor. These people all have responsibility for stewardship and financial recording.

What happens if I can't keep up with my pledge?

Your pledge is not a contract. It is simply a best-guess estimate for what you think you can give for the following year. There are no consequences to changing your pledge if you need to. Simply call the church office and let the Office Manager know.

Am I required to give financially in order to be a member?

No. Neither your membership nor any opportunities to participate are dependent on whether you give financially or how much. There are many forms of giving in addition to monetary gifts. If you desire to be a member and/or maintain active membership, what is expected is that you have a sense of being in covenant with our community of faith—to support it, to pray for it, to be counted on as best as you are able.

How much should I give?

That is ultimately the personal decision of each individual. But—it's also helpful to have some guidelines. It has been helpful for many people to think in terms of percentages. The Bible encourages 10% of one's income. This may be out of reach for many people. Consider starting at a lower percentage and try to stretch up a percentage point each year. Keep in mind your percentage can include ALL your giving, not just to the church. And we also have a number of special opportunities to give during the year, so you can figure those in too.

The bottom line, however is that there is no requirement. Whatever you give should be given with joy, love and gratitude, trusting that God's gifts to you are abundant.