

WellSprings Pledge Campaign Information



Pledging FAQ

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a promise to donate a certain amount of money during the upcoming fiscal year. You are not asked to pay that money now. You can make payments towards your pledge throughout the fiscal year. (WellSprings fiscal year runs from July to June, for example July 2026 to June 2027). Some people make monthly payments, while some make a single payment, but how you pay is up to you. We recognize that situations can change. You can always contact the office during the year if you need to revise your pledge.

Why should I pledge? Can't I just put money in the Sunday offering?

Your pledge helps us plan the budget for next year. Our pledge is our promise to each other of financial stewardship. The amount pledged is an important factor in determining the annual budget. If you wish to have money you put in the Sunday offering count towards your pledge, it needs to be in an envelope that has your name and the pledge fiscal year written on it so it can be properly recorded as a pledge payment. For example, write "Pledge 2026-27". Please write the same words on the memo line for checks.

When do I pledge?

Anyone may pledge at any time, as a member or friend. A first pledge is often made at the time of becoming a WellSprings Member. In order to have enough time to properly prepare the budget for the annual Congregational Meeting, which is usually held on the first Sunday in June, the Board and the Stewardship Ministry would like you to make your annual pledge early in April.

How do I pledge?

There are several ways to make a pledge. Pledges may be made either online or by submitting a paper pledge. There are links to submit your pledge on the WellSprings web home page – scroll all the way to the bottom of the page: <https://www.wellspringsuu.org/new/>

- **Online pledge:** Click the link labeled "ONLINE PLEDGE". Complete the form pages and then submit your completed form.
- **Paper pledge:** Click the link labeled "DOWNLOAD PLEDGE FORM". This action will download the pledge form. Print and complete the paper pledge form and return it to the Giving Box at Bell Hall, or mail a completed form to: WellSprings Congregation, PO Box 375, Chester Springs, PA 19425.

How does a pledge differ from a pledge payment or donation?

A Pledge is a promise of financial support for the upcoming year. A Pledge Payment is the actual payment that fulfills the pledge. A Donation is typically an unpledged and one-time gift.

Is setting up automated giving in Realm the same as establishing a pledge?

Setting up automated giving in Realm is NOT the same as establishing a pledge. Automated giving is a way to make the actual payment to fulfill a pledge.

May I volunteer instead of pledging?

Both our volunteer gifts and financial gifts are important to help WellSprings thrive. We depend upon both. However, our bylaws state that members must participate in the life of the congregation and make a financial contribution of record to maintain their status as Voting Members.

What if I need to change my pledge?

It is understood that financial situations change. If you need to revise your financial commitment, please contact either the [Office Coordinator](#), or [Rev. Lee Paczulla](#). Whether you're adjusting your pledge up or down, know that we will be grateful for the information, which helps us manage the budget. Whatever you pledge, know that it is gratefully received!

How much should I pledge?

Your pledge is a personal decision. It is informed by your financial means, your connection to the mission and work of WellSprings, and the needs of the congregation. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Fair Share Guidelines suggest that a new member pledge 2% of adjusted gross income and increase it over time to a Sustainer level of 5%, or a Visionary level of 7% or greater. To help determine your pledge amount, we invite you to reference the [Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide](#) provided by the UUA, of which WellSprings is a member congregation.

Generosity as a Spiritual Practice

We think of generosity as a spiritual practice at WellSprings, a practice that opens our hearts and expands our joy. So ultimately, any pledge amount that is meaningful for you is appropriate and very much appreciated. We are also a community that relies almost completely on our members' gifts to exist. So please consider the "ask" you've received from the Board and Stewardship Ministry and pledge joyfully.

How is our pledge income used?

We use our financial resources to provide spiritual development, promote our values in the wider community, be good employers, rent for our facilities, and help our congregation live the principles of our liberal religious faith. Most of our funding comes from our pledges.

Questions?

Each of us has a different way of thinking about money and our mission, and it is important that our pledges feel meaningful, and just right. If you'd like to talk to someone about the vision you want for our congregation, the budget, or your pledge, we welcome that. Please contact our Office Coordinator at office@wellspringsuu.org. Your request will be directed to the Board of Trustees, the Minister, or the Stewardship Ministry as appropriate.