

# First United Methodist Church



United Methodists promise to faithfully participate in the church's ministries through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As recipients of the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ, we are called to follow in the footsteps of Christ and do what others before us have done. Give so that others might be blessed by the life and work of First United Methodist Church now and in the future.

# Where to Give

There are many areas in the church you can give for current operating priorities or to help with future needs.

## Current Operating Priorities

### **Annual Funds: Lifeblood of the Church**

Gifts to annual funds are the most common gifts. They are the typical pledges that members make during the annual stewardship campaign. They are vital to helping the church build its annual budget and operate its impactful ministries throughout the year.

### **Designated Gifts: Gifts Restricted for a Particular Purpose**

As opposed to a gift over which the church has discretion to use where needed most, a member can restrict a gift for a specific use, such as a youth mission trip or the music ministry. Ideally, these funds should be for projects or programs the church has plans to execute within the next 12 to 18 months..

## Future Needs

### **First United Methodist Church's Endowment: A Gift that will Give Back in Perpetuity**

Thanks to the generosity of several who have gone before, the church has an endowment. Gifts can be made to the endowment during one's lifetime or as part of one's estate plan. All gifts to the endowment are combined into one account and are professionally invested in perpetuity. Only earnings from the investment are available to be spent.

### **Capital Campaign: Building for the Future**

First United Methodist Church is fortunate to be debt free because of the success of past capital campaigns. As our building and equipment age, there may be a need to enlist members to support future capital campaigns.

# Ways to Give

There are multiple ways you can make a gift to the church, both during this lifetime and upon death.

## **Outright Gifts**

An outright transfer of resources, most commonly cash, is the most popular method of charitable giving. Any type of property, including stock, bonds, and real estate (once converted to cash), may also be gifted to the church.

## **Retirement Funds**

An individual can designate minimum annual distributions from retirement accounts, including Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and Donor Advised Funds (DAF), to their church. Some retirement accounts allow individuals to name their church as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of their retirement vehicles. In the case of a contingent beneficiary, if the policy owner and other family members die before receiving all of the funds, the church receives the remaining amount.

## **Life Insurance**

Similar to retirement accounts, individuals can name their church as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. This gift (received upon death) is often a much larger amount than the individual could have given during their lifetime. Individuals who want their life insurance proceeds paid to their family, can name their church as the contingent beneficiary to receive the proceeds if the family members do not survive the insured. The church may also be named as the recipient of annual dividends from an insurance policy.

## **Charitable Bequests**

Individuals can name the church in their will or trust to leave a legacy to something they care deeply about. When having estate planning documents prepared, individuals can ask their lawyer to insert a provision leaving a bequest—either a fixed dollar amount or a percentage of the value of one's estate—to the church. Gifts can be designated to help with current operating priorities of the church or for the church's endowment.

Many of the above ways to give start with a simple phone call. You may be surprised just how easy it is to leave a legacy to the church that has blessed your life.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Romans 12:6-8

If you would like to discuss how your gifts can bless the life and work of First United Methodist Church now and in the future, please contact Rev. Alan Combs at 540-389-5459 or by an email sent to [alancombs@vaumc.org](mailto:alancombs@vaumc.org).

Thank you for thoughtfully considering ways you and your family can help this church we love today and in the future.



125 W Main Street  
Salem, Virginia 24153  
Office Phone: (540) 389-5459

[www.fumcsalemva.org](http://www.fumcsalemva.org)  
[church@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:church@fumcsalemva.org)