

# Pledging FAQs

*Frequently Asked Questions about*

## Pledging at Brundidge United Methodist Church

### **1. Why is it important to pledge in advance?**

Pledging allows the leadership of our church to plan the church budget more responsibly. As we have a more accurate idea of the amount of income we can expect during the year, we can budget more accurately and be more responsible to our programs, staff, and creditors. Also, pledging allows you to be more purposeful in your giving. You can seek God's guidance and examine your own situation to determine a realistic and God-honoring pledge. Pre-planned pledging is far superior to simple impulse giving, because it allows you to plan ahead of time and be prepared to give to support God's work through this local body.

### **2. What happens to my pledge card after I turn it in? Who sees my pledge card?**

Pledge cards are turned over to the Church financial secretary to be tabulated and filed. These files are kept private. Only the totals are turned over to the Church finance committee for the budgeting process and analysis.

### **3. What happens if I fall behind in my pledge? Do I receive any reminders about my pledge?**

A statement is mailed out semi-annually that reminds you of your pledge amount and shows your actual contributions. You may call the Church financial secretary at any time to review where you stand on your pledge.

### **4. Will I receive a statement of contributions at the end of the year?**

Yes, a record of contributions will be sent to you prior to January 30<sup>th</sup> each year as part of the semi-annual reporting. All contributions to Brundidge UMC are tax deductible.

## **5. What is my money used for?**

Contributions from our members and attenders fund the Brundidge United Methodist Church budget. This budget includes funding for all of the ministries and programs of our church (worship, children, education, youth, senior adults, missions, etc.) and for the operation and upkeep of our physical plant (maintenance, utilities, insurance, etc.). A part of our budget is sent to the conference office to fund denominational efforts, which include UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). This contribution is called our “apportionment” and is based on the total amount of our church budget.

## **6. Should I be cautious or optimistic with the amount that I pledge?**

You should be realistic with the amount that you pledge. A pledge that is too high to be paid only hurts our budget process. However, a pledge that is only a token amount doesn't reflect commitment to God's work.

## **7. What should I do if my circumstances change and I cannot fulfill my pledge?**

We recognize that circumstances do change. You may adjust your pledge amount simply by calling the church office and speaking with the financial secretary.

## **8. What guidelines should I use in determining my pledge?**

Many places in Scripture speak of contributing a tithe, which is ten percent. While this is primarily an Old Testament concept, it is a good pattern to follow. The most complete New Testament passage on giving is in 2 Corinthians 9:

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”*

*<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

In the passage above, Paul encourages the believers at Corinth to make up their minds ahead of time about how much they should give. This is all we are asking you to do.

Again, in 1 Corinthians 16:1,2 Paul comments on giving:

*Now about the money being collected for the Christians in Jerusalem: You should follow the same procedures I gave to the churches in Galatia. <sup>2</sup> On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.*

Paul again encourages regular, purposeful giving to the work of God.

*A final thought...*

We understand that these are hard times. We also believe that the work of Jesus Christ through this local church is important. Please prayerfully and purposefully consider your pledge amount.