

How can I give to Emmanuel?

Loose Plate

Each Sunday the plate is passed during our worship services. Loose cash placed in the plate is added to our General Operating Fund. These monies are not assigned to any specific giver.

Envelope Giving

Envelope giving is the term we use to describe gifts of cash and check that are assigned to specific donors. Even if you don't use an envelope, as long as your name or envelope number is on or attached to your gift, you will be credited with the gift. Personal checks are automatically assigned. If you are unable to worship with us on Sunday morning, gifts can be mailed to Emmanuel or taken to the Church Office during open hours.

Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is critical to the smooth operation of our church; it provides the most regular stream of income. Snow days, summer vacations, and unplanned absences don't get in the way of your giving. Nearly 60% of our regular gifts now come through electronic giving. There are a couple ways to set up electronic giving:

EFT –

An Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is an Electronic Giving option the Church can set up for you. If you provide a canceled check and a signed authorization form (available in the church office) we will set up regular withdrawals from your bank account. This option does not permit credit cards.

Online Giving –

This is our preferred Electronic Giving option. Online Giving can be established by visiting the Church giving website, www.eumclaurel.org/donate. On this website you can use your bank account or a credit card as the source of funds for your gift.

Legacy Giving

Remembering our church in your Will or Trust can ensure that your commitment to support the ministries of Emmanuel will be carried out according to your wishes. If you have any questions about including Emmanuel in your Will or Trust please contact the Church office or a member of the Endowment Team (Sue Nelson or Steven Lutz).

Gifts of Stocks and Securities

Through our relationship with the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation we have the ability to receive gifts of Stock and many Securities directly. This eliminates the need for the giver to liquidate the asset before giving it to the church. A major benefit to this type of giving is the potential for the donor to avoid Capital Gains Tax. If you have any questions about making a gift of stocks or securities please contact the Church office or a member of the Endowment Team (Sue Nelson or Steven Lutz). Gifts of stock or securities do not need to be given to the Endowment.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts other than money and monetary assets can be given to Emmanuel. This can include gifts of goods or labor. All gifts are appreciated. The church can provide a letter of thanks for gifts of goods and will include a value on the letter for new goods. For used goods, food items, and gifts of time and labor the church cannot provide a letter with a valuation.

How are my gifts used?

As a donor to Emmanuel, you have a lot of control over how your gift is used. Undesignated gifts will be used first to fund our General Operating Fund. Yes, this is the money the church uses to pay salaries and bills, but it is also the money our church uses to fund our ministries. Each of the ministry opportunities highlighted on the enclosed flyer were supported with money from our General Operating Fund. If you make a pledge during our Annual Stewardship Campaign it will be assumed that this pledge is to our General Operating Fund.

Can I Direct My Gift:

Yes. No matter which giving option you choose you can direct your gift to a specific purpose here at Emmanuel. Gifts can be designated for many different purposes; the following is a list of some of the more common designated purposes of our gifts.

Outreach –

Money given to outreach will be distributed by our Outreach Team to address needs in our community and worldwide. These gifts are not used to cover expenses here at Emmanuel.

Music –

Money given to the Music program will be used to support the material needs of the choirs and bands here at Emmanuel.

Youth –

Our youth program flourishes and your gifts can help support our youth and staff as they embark on mission trips and youth conferences.

Endowment –

Gift given to the Endowment will be added to the principle of our Endowment funds. If you wish, these gifts can be further directed to one of the sub-accounts of our Endowment (Cemetery, Flowers, etc.).

Special Projects –

Occasionally a special project will require additional funds. An example might be an Eagle Scout Project by scouts in our local troop to improve the church and preschool.

Special Offerings:

Several times throughout the year Emmanuel will hold a special offering to collect funds for a specific organization or a need within the church. This includes the special offerings organized by the United Methodist Church nationwide.

If you want to your donation to go to LARS, Elizabeth House, or another specific charity other than Emmanuel, and we are not currently holding a special offering for that organization, please make your gift directly to the intended organization.

Memorial Gifts:

Memorial gifts can be made to Emmanuel on behalf of a loved one. The donor may designate these gifts for a specific purpose. With undesignated memorial gifts, the family of the deceased will have the opportunity to direct the funds.