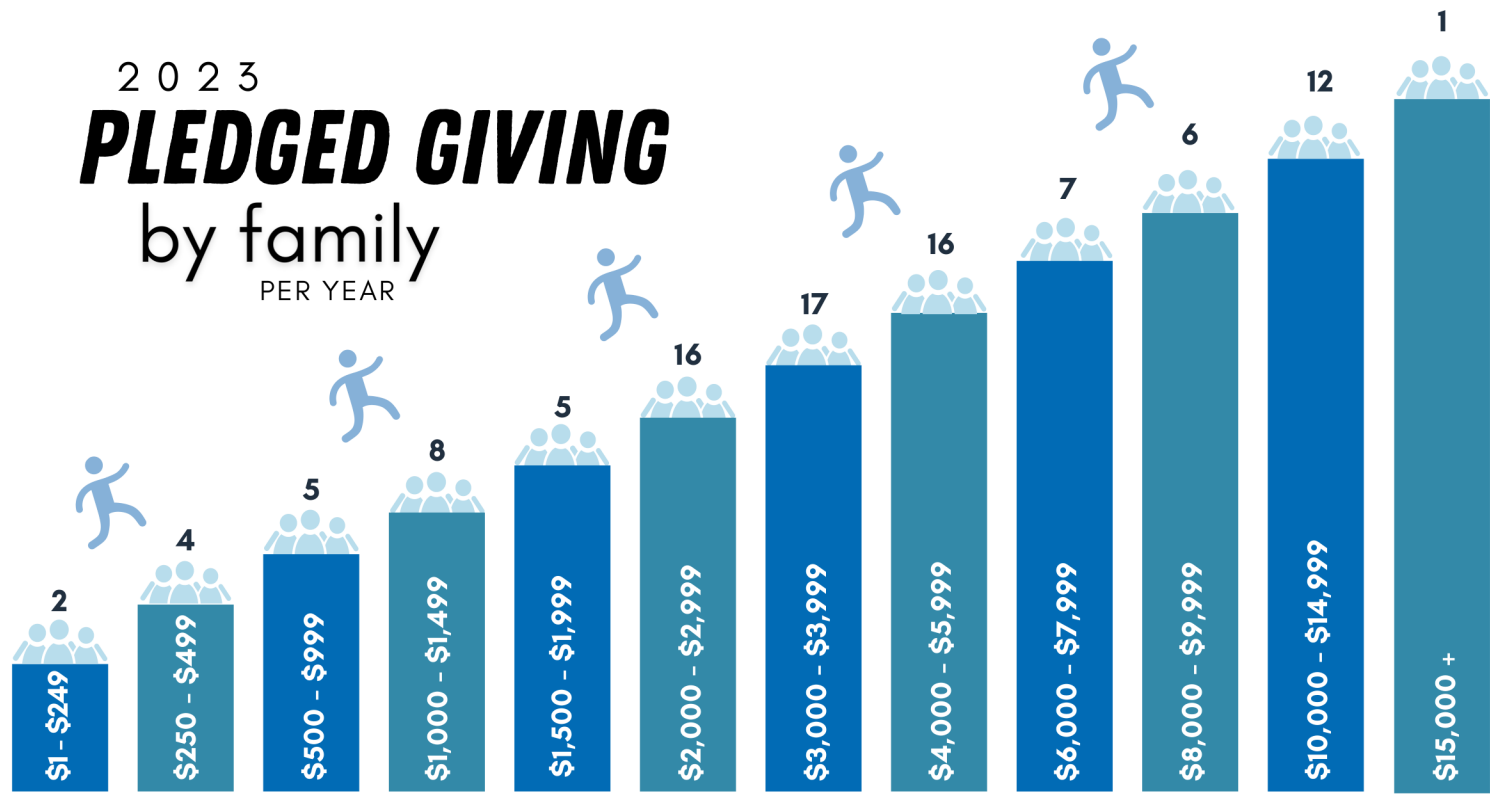


2023
PLEGGED GIVING
 by family
 PER YEAR



99 households made a pledge in 2023. Can you help us get over 100 in 2024?
 Where are you on the chart? If you are able, please take a step or two up in 2024.

WAYS TO GIVE

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT ST JOHN'S!

ONLINE

Visit stjohnsbr.org/give to make a one time donation or to set up recurring gifts. We accept all major credit cards as well as Electronic Funds Transfer. ETF is the easiest, most cost-effective option for both you and the church, as donations withdrawn from your bank do not incur merchant fees. Contact LeAnn Davis, Manager of Finance and Facilities for more information (leannDavis@stjohnsbr.org; 225-766-4594).

CHECK

Make your check out to St. John's UMC.

CASH

To have your gift added to your giving statement, place your cash in an envelope with your name clearly written.

BEQUESTS

Making a gift in your will allows you to make a legacy gift at the time you can most afford to give and can save your estate significant taxes. Visit stjohnsbr.org/legacy for more information.

STOCKS, BONDS, SECURITIES

We accept stocks, bonds, securities, IRA charitable rollovers and required minimum distributions. Securities are a great way to maximize your giving due to the immediate income tax deduction and there is no capital gains tax. Talk to your financial advisor to set this up.

WAYS TO PLEDGE

1. Complete your 2024 pledge card and bring it with you to worship on Commitment Sunday, October 29.
2. Submit your pledge online anytime at stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024
3. Return your completed pledge card by mail to:
 St. John's UMC, 230 Renee Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810

ANY QUESTIONS?

For more information about pledging or to talk with someone about the importance of pledging, reach out to Gray Sexton at 225-266-6609 or graysexton@sextonlaw.net.

*Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat their produce.
 Pursue the well-being of the city... Pray to the Lord on its behalf,
 for when it thrives, you will thrive. - Jeremiah 29:5, 7*

2024 NARRATIVE BUDGET

**CALLED TO
 COMMUNITY**

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
 OCTOBER 29, 2023

**Worship at 10 a.m.
 with Potluck Lunch to follow**

We will only have one worship service that day at 10 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch in our Family Life Center. Bring a dish to share and join us for a morning of celebration.

What a joy it will be to gather and be fed physically and spiritually!



ST. JOHN'S
 United Methodist Church

stjohnsbr.org/called-to-community

ANSWERING THE CALL

The budget for St. John's United Methodist Church is more than just lines on a spreadsheet. It's a story of love in action as we answer God's call to community. Our Finance Committee is proposing that our 2024 budget total \$680,209. Our ministry budget represents what we value, where our hearts are, and how God is at work here.

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY COMMIT TO ANSWERING THAT CALL THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL PLEDGE AND ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

This narrative budget provides our vision for the coming year. The "numbers" show what we need to bring it to life. You will see our budget broken up into six categories. This summary captures the total investment for these expressions of ministry, including programming and staff compensation.



Our preliminary 2024 budget includes a Spirit-filled 13-14% increase to support our plans for the year, including these areas of growth:

- increased investment in Christian formation ministries, especially for children and youth;
- cost of living pay increases for our staff;
- increased funds for maintaining our facilities, the place where we gather and welcome in our community;
- replenishment of our reserves and debt-reduction;
- more of what you love about St. John's - warm hospitality, dynamic worship, and life-changing service opportunities.

In addition to faithful giving, we also invite you to recommit to the vows we take when joining the church, to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church through our:

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE AND WITNESS.

It takes more than dollars to answer God's call to serve and love our neighbors. Join us in ensuring that our church and our community thrive!



TOTAL MINISTRY BUDGET
\$680,209

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

\$120,446

Glorifying God through inspirational worship experiences on Sundays and special occasions

Includes: Communion supplies, sanctuary decorations, musical instrument maintenance, sheet music and choir supplies, audiovisual equipment and software, livestreaming services, licenses for worship music, music ensembles, such as the Praise Band, Chancel Choir, Music Makers, and Alleluia Ringers, guest musicians, bulletins, over 100 unique worship services annually plus weddings and funerals

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

\$84,439.50

Forming and shaping Christian disciples of all ages.

Includes: Sunday School and small group curriculum, Confirmation class, youth ministry programming, presentation Bibles, family ministries programming, camp/retreat scholarships, The Upper Room Devotional, nursery care and supplies, leader training and development, summer programming, like Vacation Bible School, Family Camp, and Youth Service Week, and other special programming for children, youth, and adults

MISSIONAL OUTREACH

\$84,739

Answering our call to serve our community and love our neighbors - near and far.

*Includes: The Shepherd's Garden, Manna Bags, support of local mission partners like Opening Doors, Gardere Initiative, St. Vincent de Paul, Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, outreach to Wildwood Elementary, LSU Wesley Foundation, Southern University campus ministry, outreach events like Fall Fest and Bunny Breakfast, new mission opportunities, and United Methodist mission apportionments**

*Apportionments are the share each local church pays to their conference to support international, national and regional missions. Our apportionments are approximately 6% of our proposed 2024 budget.

CONNECTION & CARE

\$49,558.50

Extending care, connection and nourishment to our congregation.

Includes: Congregational Care ministries, such as Communion Companions and the bereavement food ministry, pastoral care and support, GriefShare and Good Grief Fellowship, Coffee Time supplies, Food, Fun and Fellowship team, communications, hospitality, guest follow up, supplies for special events

ADMINISTRATION

\$118,603

Providing tools, equipment, and other resources required to carry out the mission of our church.

Includes: office supplies, printers, computer upgrades and maintenance, our network and server, IT support, background checks, bookkeeping, website, communications tools, stewardship support and e-giving, payroll taxes, workers compensation

FACILITIES

\$222,423

Maintaining and upgrading our campus, facilities, and infrastructure.

Includes: Utilities, insurance, maintaining our sanctuary, administration/education building, the Family Life Center, kitchen, and the parsonage, maintaining our HVAC systems, our Custodian, cleaning services, hosting community partners, like The Shepherd's Market Food Pantry, the Gardere Initiative youth outreach, recovery groups, and exercise classes