

*2023 Annual Pledge  
Campaign*



**OLD SOUTH UNION CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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## At Old South Union Church, we are grateful for our past!

**In 2023, Old South Union Church will be 300 years old! There is so much to celebrate about our past.**

For 300 years, Old South Union Church has been a place where people of faith have come together to worship God, follow Jesus, love one another, and serve the world.

This is no small feat! Just think of all the changes that have happened in the course of history over the past

300 years. Through it all, Old South has been a steady presence in the lives of so many people. Through wars and pandemics, through fires and roof collapses, through all the political, social, and economic shifts within our country and around the world, our church has stood strong in spirit.

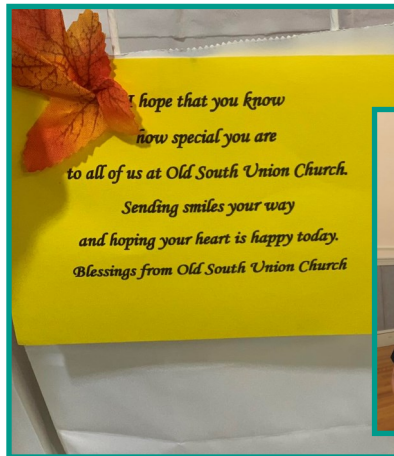
Through all the generations who have been part of the church through all of those years, the people of OSU — the people who are truly the heart of this congregation — have shown up over and over again. **We have shown up for each other and in our community to bear witness to the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Three hundred years of being church together! Thanks be to God!**

At Old South Union Church, we are grateful to be a church where:

- **Worship** has always been the cornerstone of our life together;
- We find ways to foster **deep connections** within our congregation;
- We care about the **spiritual formation** of children, youth, and adults; and
- We have a **commitment to serve** our community and the world.

**With gifted leaders and dedicated church members, Old South Union Church has faithfully served God for 300 years!**





Pictures from top to bottom: the Communion Table set for Maundy Thursday; the chancel decorated for Christmas Eve; the 2022 Confirmation Class; members of the 2022 Mission Team serving in Coatesville, PA; the note attached to blessing bags put together at the 2022 OSU Day of Service; children making crafts at Vacation Bible Camp in August 2022.

## At Old South Union Church, we are giving for our future!

As we look ahead to our 300th anniversary and beyond, the future of our beloved Old South Union Church is bright! We believe that God is dreaming big dreams for us. God is calling us to give thanks for the strong foundation of our past, and God is also calling us to look toward the future. God is at work in our midst as we sustain the existing ministries and build the new programs that will enable us to grow and thrive for years to come. **God isn't done with us yet! We can't wait to see what God has in store for Old South as we live into our 300th year and beyond.** What a blessing it will be to share this journey together!

At Old South Union Church, we are looking ahead to a future where:

- **Worship** continues to be the cornerstone of our life together. We will keep gathering both in person and online to worship our God together. We have faithful pastoral leaders in Rev. Jennie and Rev. Brian. We have a talented new Music Director in Ed Broms. We have an amazing choir and bell choir, and we have such a dedicated congregation. We have everything we need to glorify God!
- We foster **deep connections** within our congregation. Through casual conversations and fellowship events, through the Congregational Care Team and the Prayer Chain, through worship and service, we will keep finding ways to love and support one another on our journeys of faith.
- We invest in the **spiritual formation** of children, youth, and adults. We want future generations to benefit from the same kinds of programs that have made OSU a great place to grow in faith — programs like Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, Camp, and Adult Bible Studies.
- We find even more ways to live out our **commitment to serve**. Old South will always be a congregation that cares deeply about making the world a better place.

**With talented leaders, dedicated church members, and generous financial gifts, Old South Union Church will faithfully serve God for years and years to come!**



Pictures from top to bottom (L to R): Rev. Brian celebrating his call to OSU; Rev. Jennie performing a Baptism; the 2022 Mission Team in Coatesville, PA; a sign from the 2022 Walk for Hope and Recovery; the Food Pantry Garden; the Youth Group Mission Team at work in Costa Rica; Camp 2022.

## What do we need for 2023?

As we look ahead to 2023, the Board of Finance projects that our estimated expenses for the year will be **\$742,850**. In addition to the income we receive from our investments and from other sources (such as the rent paid to us by the hospital for the use of our parking lot), we are asking church members to help us meet a **pledge goal of \$400,000**. As we give thanks for our past and the 300-year history that has brought us to this point, we encourage you to give for our future — give faithfully and generously so that our church will be around to celebrate its 400th anniversary (hence our \$400,000 goal)!

**Our 2023 pledge amount of \$400,000 is a 5% increase over last year's goal.** We know that asking for an increase in giving is difficult in today's economic climate.

*We are hopeful you will consider increasing your pledge by 4%. If you can give more than that, great! A 5% or 6% increase would be an incredible blessing to the church. We trust that God will use our gifts — however much we can give — to help our church grow and thrive.*

The closer we get to our \$400,000 goal — or even better, if we go over that amount! — the less we'll have to draw from reserves in order to fund the 2023 budget. We're trusting that those who can pledge 4%, 5%, or 6% more in 2023 will balance out those who can't increase their pledges quite as much. **We know that we're in this together — and together, God will use all of our gifts to fund the future of our church.**

**Please know that the Board of Finance has been working diligently to ensure the church's financial stability even in the midst of economic uncertainty.** They have stewarded our resources faithfully this year, keeping expenses in line with income. They've been able to use reserve funds earmarked for the Board of Trustees to fund projects such as the replacement of the portico roof and safety upgrades throughout the church building. They drew on these reserve

funds to pay for the installation of the new livestream and audio systems in the sanctuary. The Board of Finance also worked with the Board of Trustees, with approval by Church Council, to sell the rights to one of our cell tower contracts for a lump sum payment of \$495,000. Our cell tower contract was not guaranteed and could have come to an end at any point, with very little notice. Receiving this payment allows us to plan for our church's financial future with a bit more certainty.

*The Board of Finance, with the approval of Church Council, has decided to use approximately half of the cell tower payment to pay off the balance of the capital campaign loan, which we've been carrying since the work on the building envelope project was completed. This is incredibly good news!*

With rising interest rates, our loan payments moving forward would have been a significant financial burden for our church to bear. After paying off the loan, the Board of Finance will invest the remainder of the cell tower payment with the Trustees of Trust Funds, using the returns on that investment to fund the church's future capital improvement needs.

**If we're paying off the capital campaign loan, you may be wondering why we're still asking for an increase in pledges. As you might imagine, inflationary pressures have had a significant impact on our budget for 2023.** Everything is more expensive these days! An increase in giving is necessary for us to compensate our staff with an appropriate cost of living adjustment while also budgeting for increases in health insurance rates, building and office supplies, and utilities. **The Board of Finance's decision to pay off the capital campaign loan has allowed us to set a reasonable 2023 pledge goal of \$400,000.**

**2023 Total Budget: \$742,850**  
**2023 Pledge Goal: \$400,000**

## How do I give to OSU?

### *How should I determine my 2023 pledge?*

As we look ahead to 2023, we encourage you to consider increasing your pledge by 4%. If you can give more, great! A 5% or 6% increase would be an incredible blessing to the church. We are hopeful that these increases in pledging will allow us to fully fund the 2023 annual operating budget with only a small draw on our reserves.

### *I'm going to pledge for the first time! Where do I start?*

Here are some “Guidelines for Giving”:

- **The Modern Tithe** — The “modern tithe” invites you to give 5% of your income to the church and 5% to other charitable organizations.
- **Income-Based Giving** — Consider giving \$1/week for each \$1,000 of income you receive annually. So if you make \$50,000 per year, you would pledge \$50/week or \$2,600/year.

### *How can I give to the church?*

There are a number of ways you can give for our church's future and share your financial resources. You can:

- Fill out the enclosed **pledge card** and return it to the church on or before **Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 20th**. You can then fulfill your pledge through weekly, monthly, or yearly gifts.
- Give through **electronic funds transfer (EFT)**. You can check the box on the pledge card indicating you'd like to sign up for EFT. We'll then send you the paperwork necessary to authorize electronic transfers from your bank account to the church's bank account.
- Give **via credit or debit card** by visiting [www.oldsouthunion.org/donate](http://www.oldsouthunion.org/donate) and clicking the “Make a Donation” button, or by downloading the **Tithe.ly app** on your smart device. You can use this option to fulfill a weekly or monthly recurring pledge (choose the “Pledge Payment” option), or to make a one-time gift (choose the “General Donation” option).

### *Can I pledge or give if I'm not a church member?*

**Absolutely!** You do not have to be a member of Old South to submit a pledge. There are a number of people who pledge or donate to the church who are not (yet!) members of OSU.