

Do I *HAVE TO* Pledge? No, You *GET TO* Pledge!

Members of Latrobe Presbyterian Church have been stellar in their support of the ministry and mission of Latrobe Presbyterian Church! That is the good news! We are breaking records in giving by members! Thank you.

The Challenge

The challenging news is that our investments have been breaking records the *other way*. Every year the blessings given to us by God through our forebearers in the form of investments and endowment return less and less funds for ministry.

Clearly, the future of Latrobe Presbyterian Church lies less on depending on the faithfulness and generosity of previous generations and more on the faith and work of the current one.

Why Pledge?

Pledging is a big part of our future. November 9th we will ask those who are commitment to the next chapter of ministry at Latrobe Presbyterian Church.

What If I Don't Believe in Pledging!

Some people object to pledges for religious reasons. Devout Muslims refuse to pledge. They are to be admired for their dedication to their faith by refusing credit cards, checks, mortgages, payment plans, loans, automatic withdraws and all the other pledges we make as present day Americans.

I have yet to meet a Presbyterian that didn't have some form of pledge. We are trustworthy people!

I'll Wait Until the Real Pastor Comes to Pledge!

Any good candidate for pastor will look at the support of the congregation for the congregation. This year, we have a choice of giving the Pastoral Nominating Committee an excellent demonstration of our faithful stewardship of the grand congregation given to us by our forebearers or a stewardship report that will repel instead of attract the best and brightest candidate for pastor.

My Previous Church Didn't Pledge!

I was a pastor of a church where a doctor at the end of the month would ask how short of funds the church was and write a check to cover the amount. It was a very small church and quite a while ago.

Latrobe Presbyterian Church is blessed with a magnificent building, professional staff, and active program. With an average worship attendance of 150, we are easily in the top 20% in size of congregations in our Synod of Pennsylvania

and West Virginia. (Comparing active membership numbers, at 508, we are larger than 90% of the Presbyterian Churches in these states.)

While an informal and ad hoc giving plan may work for smaller churches, we are simply too large to run by the seat of our pants and an informal network of folks who will give when asked. Folks who have joined Latrobe Presbyterian Church have chosen to be at a larger church with all its blessings and responsibilities.

Pledging is not required of members!

No, there is no law forcing church members to support their church.

We don't work that way. The church exists only by common consent of its members. We have chosen to have a Presbyterian church here in Latrobe, seeking to be not an empty shell but a leader in mission, a beacon in reformed worship, and a center for religious learning and spiritual growth. Praise God! We get to support our choice with our treasure.

I know the congregation will make the best choice November 9th and vote for the future of this congregation by pledging their support!

I promise to pledge to the church, giving a percentage of my income to the general fund as an example to others and as a spiritual discipline.— J. Christy Ramsey

[Session members] are expected to pledge and maintain regular giving to the general fund as a sign of faith in the ministry and mission of the church, supporting the budget which is set by session.

- From "An Invitation to Covenant"

PLEDGE
Sunday