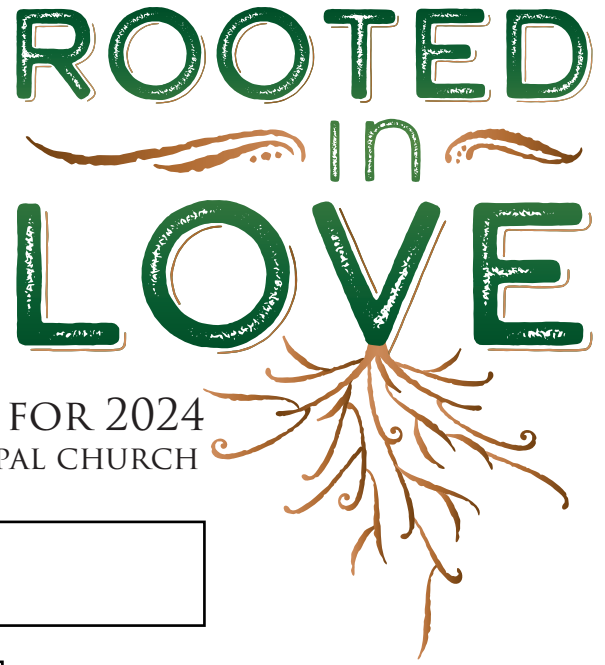


A Prayer for Discerning Your Pledge

Gracious God, giver of all good gifts: grant me the wisdom to discern how you are calling me to use my time, talent, and financial resources to share your eternal love. Give me the courage to trust you in all things, and the gladness and singleness of heart to discover when I have enough. Lord, please move the collective heart and mind of the people of St. Mark's to use my gift to further your mission in Mystic and throughout the world. Amen.



A FINANCIAL AND FAITH COMMITMENT FOR 2024 IN SUPPORT OF GOD'S MISSION AT ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Name(s)

For the year 2023, you pledged a total of \$ to God's mission at St. Mark's. Thank you!

Thank you so much for rooting yourselves into this community, helping the branches of God's love to spread far and wide. Thank you also for considering your financial pledge to God's mission at St. Mark's. Please take this pledge card with you in your prayer to God and make your pledge a joyful and faithful offering back to God. Once you fill it out, please return it to the church using the stamped envelope provided in the packet. We invite you to join so many others in financially supporting God's mission at St. Mark's, where Christ dwells in our hearts as we remain rooted in the love of God.

In support of God's mission at St. Mark's in 2024 and in grateful response to God's blessings, I/we pledge:

OPTION A

- \$18.67 per week (\$971/year)
- \$50 per week (\$2,600/year)
- \$100 per week (\$5,200/year)
- \$200 per week (\$10,400/year)

OPTION B

\$ _____ to be paid

- Weekly Monthly
- Quarterly One Time

for a yearly total of \$ _____

Would you like to receive pledge envelopes?

- Yes
- No

Signature(s)

Date

In the event of a financial challenge, I/we recognize that this pledge may be adjusted confidentially by speaking with the clergy.

Email

Phone

- Cell
- Home
- Work

Please contact me about giving to the St. Mark's Endowment in my will.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT

You will receive a notice confirming your pledge in December 2023. You will also receive a notice for your tax use reflecting your tax deductible 2023 contributions in January 2024.

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

15 Pearl Street • Mystic, CT 06355
(860) 572-9549 • stmarksmystic.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is there an option to pledge \$18.67 per week? Isn't that a strange number?

Yes, it is a strange number. 1867 is also the year we celebrate as the birth of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, so it makes sense in a way. A few years ago, we added this strange number to the pledge card as a way to invite those who pledge less than \$1,000 a year (and who have the means possibly to pledge more) to make our parish's birth year your weekly commitment. We know not everyone can make such a financial commitment, so please do not feel pressure to do so. But if you can, please consider the birth year pledge!

What is the purpose of the "Rooted in Love" pledge drive? God calls us to be good stewards of God's blessings year round, and we focus on monetary giving this time of year in order to invite our members to contribute their financial resources back to God's mission at St. Mark's, as well as to help deepen their commitment to God in Christ. In this year of both growth and continued loss, we are celebrating staying rooted in God's love.

Doesn't the church receive assistance from the diocese? No. Our entire operating budget comes from the collective pledges of our parishioners, plus a few fundraisers throughout the year.

Why is a pledge preferred to a one-time donation? For most, spreading a pledge out over twelve months (or 52 weeks) allows for a more substantial gift than a single donation and turns the act of giving into a frequent spiritual discipline. Making a pledge also helps us plan next year's budget and helps with monthly cash flow.

How do I determine the amount of my pledge? Financial commitment to God's mission at St. Mark's is a personal, intentional, and spiritual decision that we hope you make after much thought, prayer, and in consultation with a spouse or trusted friend. The average pledge in 2023 was \$3,169. One way to determine your pledge is through incremental increase; that is, increase your pledge by a percentage over last year. For example, if you pledged \$5,000 for 2023, you might increase by 10% to pledge \$5,500 for 2024. Another method is proportional giving.

What is proportional giving? The biblical tithe is the standard of giving in the Old Testament scriptures: 10% of income, given as the first fruits of love and trust to God's mission. In biblical times, this giving went to the

temple's storehouse to help widows and orphans. The 10% tithe is the basis of the idea of proportional giving, though you may decide to give a different proportion. Here is a chart with some examples.

Sample Proportional Giving Percentages (Annual)			
Income	5%	7%	10%
\$20,000	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000
\$50,000	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$100,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
\$250,000	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000

Are there ways besides cash and checks by which to fulfill my pledge? Yes. Some may prefer to give from their capital assets. Appreciated securities, for example, may offer a tax advantage not available in a cash gift.

What about planned giving in my will? In addition to current yearly giving, notifying the church that one's will includes a bequest facilitates long-term financial planning. Check the box on the front side of this sheet for more information about planned giving to the St. Mark's Endowment.

Should I use the "donate online" button on the church's website to pay my pledge? It is possible to do so, but we would prefer you pay another way, since the platform we use to receive online donations takes a small cut, which eats into each donation. The "donate online" button is designed for non-pledgers who feel moved to make small one-time donations to the church for various reasons.

I PRAY THAT CHRIST MAY
DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS
THROUGH FAITH, AS YOU
ARE BEING GROUNDED AND
ROOTED in LOVE
EPHESIANS 3:17