

## JOY IN GIVING

### Worship \$66,600

Worship is the heartbeat of the church. When we worship, we encounter the Triune God who nourishes us with grace and shapes us as people who carry God's love into the world. Money in this area pays our pastor and musician for their gifts, time, and energy. It also pays for a sanctuary where we can gather, bread and wine to celebrate communion, music for our choir and handbells, and other supplies to make worship meaningful.

### Fellowship \$55,600

A congregation is a collection of people who have decided their lives are richer when they are together. Money in this area provides for Congregational Care events, homebound and hospital visitation, and welcoming spaces to gather for fellowship within the church. As a church, we laugh together, cry together, eat together, stand together, and commit to simply being together through all life's moments.

### Mission \$71,900

Scripture calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves, alleviate suffering, and stand for justice. Money in this area enables us to provide a food pantry, garden, and give emergency support to our neighbors in need. It also helps maintain our building to house our food pantry, mission supplies, and to host community groups in our space. Our per capita and mission giving supports our local Presbytery and the mission of the PC(USA).

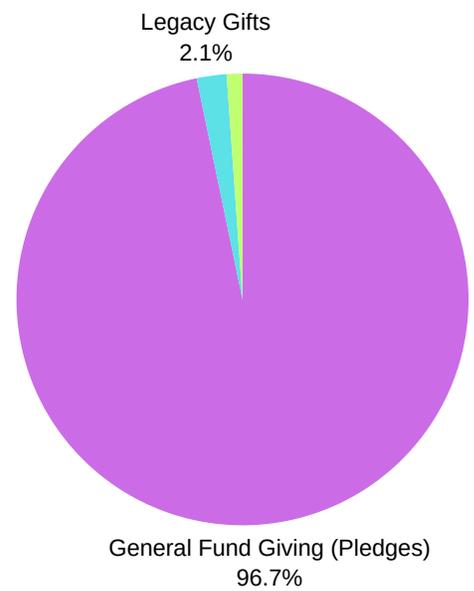
### Discipleship \$56,900

Shaping and nurturing our faith is a lifelong commitment. Jesus calls his followers "disciples," learners of God's truth. Money in this area provides for clean spaces to learn, curricula for all ages, formation events, and safety-trained children and youth volunteers. We are committed to providing opportunities to grow and deepen our faith at every stage of life.

\*Numbers are approximated and reflect the 2025 budget. Narrative budgets tell the story of a church's mission by discerning how the church lives out God's purpose for it and then determining how each dollar given supports that mission. Building, salary, administration, and finance costs are divided into the areas of ministry they support. Traditional budgets are available from our treasurer.

# Where does LoveJoy United get its money?

97% of the money in our yearly budget comes directly from you, the financial supporters of LoveJoy United. 3% comes from outside sources: legacy gifts given to the church and interest earned on our mission market account. While we are grateful for these alternate revenue streams, it is truly YOU who makes our ministries happen. Thank you!



## Why pledge? Why not just donate like I do everywhere else?

Simply put, pledging allows us to plan! When you make your pledge, you are promising to donate a certain amount of money over the year. Knowing what will come in allows us to create responsible budgets for our ministries. A pledge is not legally binding; if you find you need to adjust your pledge as the year goes on, simply contact the church office at [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org).

## I'm in! How can I make my best gift?

The pledging process should begin with prayer. How is God's Spirit calling you to direct your money? Pledging is a spiritual practice of trust: trusting that God will enable you to fulfill your promise to give, and trusting that the church will use your gifts to serve God and God's world.

**If you have never pledged before**, consider adding pledging and giving to your spiritual practices alongside prayer, worship, and service. To give is to participate in God's work and ministry at LoveJoy United.

**If you do regularly pledge**, consider increasing your pledge this year. ANY increase in giving allows us to dream about what your generosity might enable us to do!

## How do I submit my pledge?

- **Online** - go to [lovejoyupc.org/pledge](http://lovejoyupc.org/pledge) and fill out the pledge form.
- **Pledge Card** - return the pledge card mailed to you to the church office or put it in the offering basket.
- **Call** the Church office at 618-254-5880

## What else can I offer?

There's no way around it: we need money to make our ministries happen. But the most valuable treasure you have to offer is yourself! All these numbers mean nothing without you committing to worship, grow, serve, and connect with us. Our church runs off the wisdom, time, talents, energy, prayers, and presence of its congregation. So in addition to your financial pledge, pledge to be all-in to this community of faith. We pledge in turn to treasure you like the gift you are!

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*"God loves it when the giver delights in the giving."*

- 2 Corinthians 9:7, The Message