

Enhancing How We Give to USH with our New Online Giving Portal

"Hybrid church" is now our new normal — and USH continues to grow in our ability to offer more ways to stay engaged in our community beyond the Meeting House walls.

Our new normal now includes professional-quality Sunday Worship streaming services, Town Hall meetings offering both in-person and virtual participation, and interest groups adept at flexing between virtual and hybrid meetings. We should take pride in how far we've come in the last two years! We are better equipped than before to help our community stay connected to USH, whether from home, on the road, or in the Meeting House.

Our journey continues with modernizing and simplifying our **Online Giving** capabilities. UU churches are increasingly using secure, online platforms to make it easier to give from home. After speaking with a couple UU churches who used Vanco Faith, we selected Vanco because of their 20+ years of experience in faith-based giving with a customizable platform which meets USH's needs.

Using USH's Online Giving Portal (LINK TO: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHA5/home>), you can now:

1. Make your offering using the "Shopping cart" and check-out experience.
2. **Contribute to USH with more ease and less paper.** On the portal you have the option to make a one-time donation, or schedule weekly, biweekly, or monthly contributions. Simply create an account to manage your donations and make repeat giving even easier. You will receive your donation receipt by email. Once you create an account, you can see your giving history and change your options with ease.
3. **Lower rates than PayPal.** PayPal charges 2.9%. In contrast, donations funded by your bank account on USH's Online Giving Portal are charged only a 1% fee. Debit/Credit card donations have a 2.2% fee. Our online giving portal also gives you the option to add a nominal surcharge to help defray processing costs. (This is not necessary, but of course appreciated!)
4. **Funds are deposited automatically into USH's accounts,** minimizing cash handling and manual tracking. You can contribute to Sunday Offerings, Good Neighbor Offerings, and make payments for the USH Auction and other special events. Brian Mullen receives a monthly report identifying where the funds are to be allocated.

We encourage you to **try out the new portal to see how it can work for you!** Visit our Giving & Stewardship page (LINK TO: <https://ushartford.org/stewardship-2/>) to access the USH Online Giving Portal and other giving options.

Of course, you can continue to give using your current method. All contributions are equally welcomed and appreciated.

Later this month we'll share more on how to **Give by Text!**

By Lisa Gallinski