

Introduction to Realm®

Realm® and its companion app, Connect - Our Church Community, is designed to make the most of ministry as our church lives out its faith between Sundays. To fully tap into its ministry and life-changing potential, we need all our congregants to engage with it.

The Financial Team is nearing completion of the design work necessary to make Realm® more user friendly for our members and friends of the congregation. To that end, we have sent invitations to some or most of you using the email addresses on file. After receiving the invitation to join Realm®, you will need to provide a password, then use your email address and your password to sign in and manage your profile. This email must be different from any other, otherwise, all profile information and contribution records accessed in Realm® will be associated with the email and password used to sign onto Realm®. Any giving made through the electronic giving program will be recorded under the account of the email address provided with the transaction. If you have not received an invitation, either the email address we have for you is not up-to-date or we made an error when typing it in your Realm® profile, so, we ask that you quickly notify the secretary of the congregation council and provide your information.

Once we have implemented the Realm® system, you will be able to choose the method most user friendly to you in making your contributions to the Church. We suggest you choose one method. However, if you choose to change how and when you want to make contributions, you will be able to change the method at will. Please note that for budgetary and planning purposes, it will help the Church to plan and manage its expenses if we have stability in your giving habits. The goal is to help you support the Church even if you can not attend every week and especially during times like these.

There are three key attributes being provided to help make the Realm® system work for you:

1. Everyone in the church gets a unique profile. Your profile contains everything you want people in our church to know about you. We have added your profile in Realm® from data maintained on the computer before moving to Realm®. “By keeping your information current, you are helping our staff, group leaders, and our church community. Your Profile includes:

- Contact Information* (e.g. name, address, email, phone)
 - Photo (where provided)
 - Family Members
 - Personal Information (e.g. marital status, birthday**, etc.)
 - Connected Social Media accounts
2. No matter how you choose to give toward our ministry, you can review all of your giving history online anytime. You may choose to give using:
 - Check or Cash
 - Online Gifts (one-time or recurring)
 - Text Giving* on your mobile phone
 - Bank drafts
 3. Your giving history is always available and kept secure in an easy--to--use online environment. You must simply sign onto Realm®. With that you will be able to look over your year--to--date giving, check pledge progress, print a contribution statement, or make a new one-time or recurring donation.

Realm® has features that allow managing events and communicating with groups. These features will be implemented once the congregation's leadership and members are comfortable using the system.