

Central Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

One Worthen Street PO Box 339
Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824
978-256-5931 office.admin@cccchelmsford.org

Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor
pastor-rich@cccchelmsford.org

Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry, Pastor Emeritus



"A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love, Growing through Worship and Service"

February 11, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of CCC,

The annual Stewardship Campaign at CCC is scheduled to start during March. Before the campaign letter announcing the kickoff is sent out, the Stewardship Committee feels it is important to let you know about some of the challenges the church may be facing in the coming year.

Last year, due to the lower pledging response to the 2021/2022 Stewardship Campaign, we were unable to fully fund the annual budget. We were not able to provide monies for the Christian Education program or to provide money for the needs of our music program. This forced the CE Committee and the Music Committee to use their special reserve funds to cover their annual expenses. We also were unable to fund raises for our staff during the budgeting process last year even though they had not had a raise the year before. Raises were eventually funded, but only for one year, by a budget surplus at the end of the previous fiscal year.

These shortfalls last year required an additional \$11,500 to fully fund the 2021/2022 budget. We will need to increase pledges by that amount during this year's stewardship campaign to realize the anticipated 2022/2023 budget.

We are now faced with an additional budget shortfall unless we can form a committee to organize the annual sales of Christmas trees and wreaths. Dick Papenfuss is attempting to form a committee to take over the fundraiser from him and to run the future sales. There will be a meeting after church on February 27 to save this long-standing source of CCC income. If you can help assume part of the duties, please attend the meeting. Loss of this fundraiser will mean \$7,000 less income for next year.

As we anticipate the 2022/2023 Stewardship Campaign, we realize that as a congregation we must address the shortfalls mentioned above. We are also faced with raising additional funds required to cover anticipated budget increases for next year. We know utilities will increase, especially natural gas. Insurance bills will also increase, as will the cost of office supplies and postage. Giving our staff a 2% raise will cost \$3,800 and a 3% raise will cost \$5,700.

So, the potential is having to raise an additional \$25,000 to have a balanced budget for 2022/2023. We average 106 pledges per year, and it would mean that every pledge will need to increase by \$5.00 per week to cover this amount.

Since 67% of our budget is committed to fixed expenses and staff salaries, there are very few places left to cut the budget, if necessary.

The Stewardship Committee is reaching out ahead of time to ask you to start thinking about what you can do to help CCC meet these challenges.

When the time comes, can you increase your pledge?

Can you serve on the tree committee?

Do you have any ideas that can be used to increase our income, especially in light of the continuing pandemic?

Please prayerfully consider how you can help and be ready to respond when you receive your pledge card in March.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Sherm Horton, Cynthia Dorman, Becky Wisniewski, Elmer Lyons, William Harrison, and Dick Papenfuss