

Central Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor
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Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry, Pastor Emeritus



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

March 5, 2023

2023/2024 Stewardship Campaign

Dear Fellow Members and Friends of CCC,

“Because of you, our church changes lives.”

Stewardship often refers to members of a church giving God a portion of the gifts God blesses us with. Stewardship is a way for our church to help the community and change lives. Thank you to those who have continued to generously give to Central Congregational Church and to God’s purpose.

This year has seen such amazing growth in our church! CCC has continued our commitment to making a difference in our community. The church’s youth have made a difference by preparing food for the homeless, building beds for those in need, collecting food for Open Pantry, and cleaning up the parks and trails in Chelmsford on Make A Difference Days. We’ve welcomed new members, baptized many new Christians, and are now renewing our church’s appearance and facilities. We are so grateful for the changes that are happening and to everyone who has been able to contribute their time and resources to making our church a more beautiful place.

Thanks to a successful Capital Campaign, sufficient funds have been raised for the planned renovations. However, we depend on strong Stewardship pledging so that CCC can continue to serve our congregation and community as well. A key aspect to our church’s strength and growth is that throughout Covid we never “stopped” with weekly worship services, Sunday school, and missions. Our annual Stewardship pledges are a way to grow our strengths, budget our finances accurately for the upcoming year, and continue to change lives in our community.

The coming fiscal year of the church will present us with many challenges. We have lost a number of income streams; rental income, one-time building use fees, and the AmazonSmile fundraiser, which will leave us with a \$7,000 to \$9,000 gap to fill in the budget. If each person increases their pledge by \$5 a week, we can overcome these losses and cover rising annual costs and inflationary pressures.

If you are new to CCC, please consider choosing to pledge for the upcoming year. Reach out to someone on the Stewardship Committee if you'd like to learn more about the practice and importance of pledging.

Your pledge to CCC is not just a commitment of financial giving, it is a commitment to support and maintain our church, church staff, and worship services, along with funding the activities that change lives and help grow our community.

**“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” - *Hebrews 13:16***

Please demonstrate your care for Central Congregational Church by taking a few moments to respond to this pledge request.

Enclosed is a pledge card that you may fill out and mail back to the church or drop in the collection plate. If you prefer, you may submit your pledge online on the church's website at <https://www.ccchelmsford.org/stewardship/>. Or, you may contact the church treasurer, Dick Papenfuss, at dickandkarenp@verizon.net or at 603-577-1497.

Your pledge commitment should be received by Stewardship Sunday, March 26, 2023, so that there is adequate time to prepare the 2023/2024 budget ahead of the Annual Meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you and God Bless.



Yours in Christ,

Your Stewardship Committee,

*Sherm Horton, Cynthia Dorman, Becky Wisniewski,
Lindsay Moore, Mark Timmins, and Dick Papenfuss*