



Central Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

March 10, 2026

2026 - 2027 Stewardship Campaign

"There Our Hearts Will Be"

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21

Dear Fellow Members and Friends of the Central Congregational Church:

As we begin our 2026 – 2027 Stewardship Campaign, we think about what stewardship is. Faithful stewardship is not only about money. It is also about placing our hearts in God's hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices and resources will follow.

Together as a community we ask: Where is our treasure? How can our hearts more fully align with God's?

This season, we commit to making our answer clear. God is generous beyond measure. God is always inviting us to do something more. This is the beauty of aligning ourselves and our gifts with God's heart for "***There our hearts will be***" too.

Through the generosity of members and friends of the Central Congregational Church, we were able to reach 93% of last year's stewardship goal. For that generosity we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone.

Here are some pledge facts:

We received 107 pledges and we raised \$271,414. The average pledge last year was \$2,550. The mean pledge was \$1,850 (half the pledges gave more and half the pledges gave less).

As a result of the pledge numbers, we could not fund the Christian Education and Music Committees. We were limited to a 2% wage increase and had to cut back on Social Action Missions funding.

This year we are asking everyone to look into their hearts and increase their pledge by only \$7 per week. With the Capital Campaign donations completed, we are hoping the suggested increase amount is sustainable for most households.

This increase will allow us to fund Christian Education and the Music programs again. We will be able to increase our giving to Social Action Missions, offer a 3% wage increase, and it will allow us to keep up with the ever-increasing insurance costs.

How to pledge:

Please fill out the enclosed pledge card and bring with you to the Stewardship Sunday worship service on April 12. Or, go online to www.cccchelmsford.org/stewardship to complete your pledge.

We ask, if able, to refrain from donating electronically via PayPal. PayPal fees are costly and take away from your intended donation.

Please reach out to any committee member with questions.

Sincerely,

The Stewardship Committee
Cynthia Dorman, Chair
Rebecca Wisnewski
Wim Nijenberg
Sandra Lamplough
Stephen Hartigan
Dick Papenfuss (Advisor)