



Dear First Church Family and Friends,

*In sickness and in health.* That ageless vow deeply resonates. It articulates a promise of steadfast relationship. In many ways, it symbolizes the promise, given by God, through the Church, to remain with each of us in times of both challenge and prosperity.

In the midst of all the personal and societal turmoil that this past year has brought, First Church remained a steadfast presence for our congregation and for our community. From a “glass half full” perspective, the Church was challenged to develop alternative strategies. An on-line presence was expanded to draw people together through worship services, educational programming, and conversations with the wider community. For those who could not participate electronically, frequent letters were mailed and phone contacts were made. Philanthropic initiatives were sustained, and in many cases, amplified. We are thankful for the countless contributions of time and talent by so many.



The work of the Church continued to be possible, due, in no small part, to the generous and sustained financial contributions of its membership. Despite physical separation, the budgeted income from pledged donations continued to stay on target. Without doubt, a sizable grant from the federal government through the Payroll Protection Program, spared the Church from over-extending its withdrawal from the endowment.

The months ahead will be challenging. We are asking you to pledge as generously as you can to support the work and mission of the Church. There are some among us who have been adversely impacted by the recent economic downturn. If you are



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able to increase your pledge to help offset a potential loss from our congregational friends, it would be appreciated.



Our most recent records indicate that First Church ministers to:

- 223 family units.
- Roughly 60% of these family units pledge financial support.
- We want to specifically appeal to the 40% of households who do not pledge.



Perhaps you have traditionally given on a spontaneous basis into the weekly collection plate or other in-person events. Because these in-person services and events were halted for many months, this source of income was lost. In order for a realistic annual budget to be prepared, it is so important that we know your intentions. **Please estimate your contributions and convert your giving to a pledged amount.**

Throughout the month of November, more will be said about the Stewardship campaign. To jump start the process, team members have already begun to pledge online. (<https://www.whfirstchurch.org/donate/pledge>) The enclosed Pledge Card explains this process. A completed card can also be mailed to the Church.

Thank you for your financial contributions in the coming year that will be used to sustain the health of First Church.

With gratitude,

STEWARDSHIP WORKGROUP:

Don Clark, Jeff Mitchell, Julia Rosa, Judy Schmitt, Eleanor Wight, Erica Avena

