

STEWARDSHIP 2020 - CALLED TOGETHER



January 4, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational Church,

Called Together. That's one way to understand God's activity in our lives. God calls us to love with all our heart and mind and strength, to love God, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to love the world as God loves the world. This calling is both individual and communal. God calls each one of us out of ourselves into a more expansive vision and a greater venture. God also calls us together, as the church, to join each other in a shared ministry and to be partners in the service of others.

All this is to say that First Congregational Church is not merely an organization we support. It's a calling we hear and hold in common. It's a community of kindred hearts and shared commitments – compassion, justice, mercy, and care – expressed through worship, music and art, learning and service, and embodied in transformed lives. We are a people bonded together in a covenant reflecting God's goodness and grace and by a mutual yearning for more love and light in the world.

During the month of January all of us are asked to respond with generosity to the call of faithful stewardship to sustain and strengthen the life of our congregation by making a financial pledge for 2020. We are invited not merely to make a token gift as if the church were just another of the charities we are called upon to support. Instead, we are invited to bring a portion of our income that reflects the magnitude of all that God has done for us and that reflects our own gratitude for God's call and claim upon each of us and the life of the Gospel we are blessed to share as First Congregational Church.

This church we love is worthy of our most generous support. But more than that, our pledges are an offering to God who loves us beyond measure and calls us to live lives of gratitude and generosity. On Sunday, January 26, while we give thanks to God in worship and consecrate our pledges for 2020, we will dedicate all that we have and all that we are to God's good work in the world.

With gratitude for you and all the gifts that are ours to share,

Rev. Christina L. Braudaway-Bauman
Senior Minister

Your Stewardship Team

Libby Black, Betsy Barrett, Chris Braudaway-Bauman,
Allison Hamm, Jon Hinebauch, Jeanne Lounsbury,
Eric Malmborg, Bob Matthias, Laura McCutchen,
Nicole Speer, Nancy Stevens

called *together*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER

OPERATING BUDGET INCOME

Pledges and Donations \$788,302

Other Income \$297,615

Total Income \$983,141

Expenses \$983,141

Worship and Music - \$216,009

Makes it possible for us to find inspiration, experience spiritual growth, and glorify God in vibrant worship, relevant preaching, and musical excellence on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings in contemplative prayer, monthly in Dinner Church worship, and in special services all year long, including Christmas Eve, Holy Week, and Sundays when we highlight one or more of the Covenants that express our commitment to justice and inclusion. Our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Faith Singers and Joyful Noise Choir bring diverse and inspiring music to our congregation and community. We are also able to invite professional musicians to enhance special services and maintain good stewardship of our splendid pipe organ.

Learning and Congregational Care - \$253,876

Makes it possible for us to offer nearly 40 small groups, including book groups, Bible studies, memoir writing and fellowship groups, Sunday morning forums between worship services, including Art Lectionary classes, and annual retreats for adults, middle and high school youth and eighth grade confirmation classes. Faith formation programs for more than a 100 children and youth engage them in year-round Sunday school, summer Arts Camp, and an annual weeklong Mission Trip. Through ministries of fellowship, visitation, spiritual support and mental health, we build a beloved community where all are welcome.

Communications and Administration - \$211,611

Makes it possible for us to maintain our website and communicate information about ministries and programs electronically in our Weekly Update and Weekly Devotional. We are also able to support accurate and trustworthy financial systems and provide necessary technology to facilitate hundreds of events a year.

Facilities - \$220,415

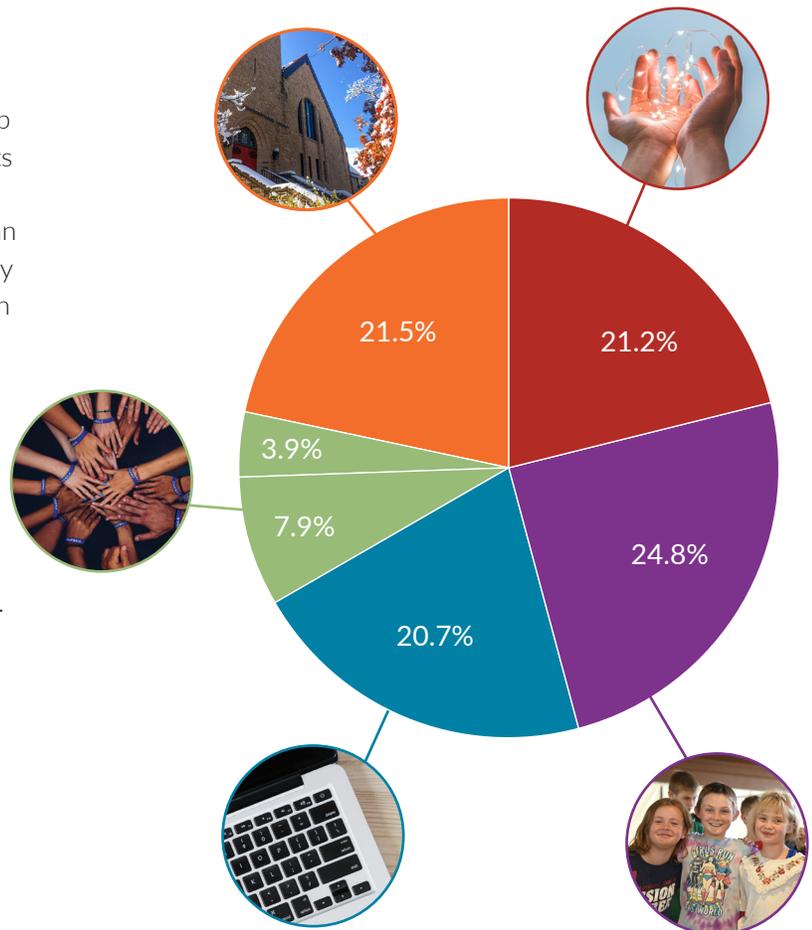
Makes it possible for us to be good stewards of our magnificent facilities, ensures scheduled cleaning, routine maintenance, and necessary repairs to our infrastructure and systems, all of which enables us to offer hospitality to nearly 40 groups and organizations beyond our congregation.

Our facilities serve as a significant expression of our outreach ministry to the wider community as well as an essential resource for our congregational life.

Outreach and Social Action Operating Budget - \$81,230

Benevolence Fund - \$40,463

Makes it possible, with proceeds from our Benevolence Endowment Fund and our Operating Budget, for us to build relationships and offer financial support to more than 20 social service ministries beyond our local congregation. These ministries include outreach to children and families, justice issues concerning poverty and housing, environmental and climate change, and local and international development work. We support Mindful Works, our church-wide mission partner who maintains a job-training program for people recovering from mental illness and also contribute substantially to the United Church of Christ through Our Church's Wider Mission and our membership dues.



2020 STEWARDSHIP: WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Every Member A Pledge!

Average Pledge: **Grow from \$3,043 to \$3,106**

- 85% of families and individuals increase their pledge
- Zero one-time gifts are required to reach our goal (2019 required \$35,000 in one-time gifts).

The graph below shows that every pledge is important!

- 61% of our pledges are between \$100 and \$2,999, providing 25% of total dollars pledged.
We can't do it without them!
- 7% of our pledges are above \$9,000 and yet they also provide about 25% of total dollars pledged.
We couldn't do it without them either.
- Every pledge counts – small, large and in between.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider stretching to the next bar on the graph for 2020.

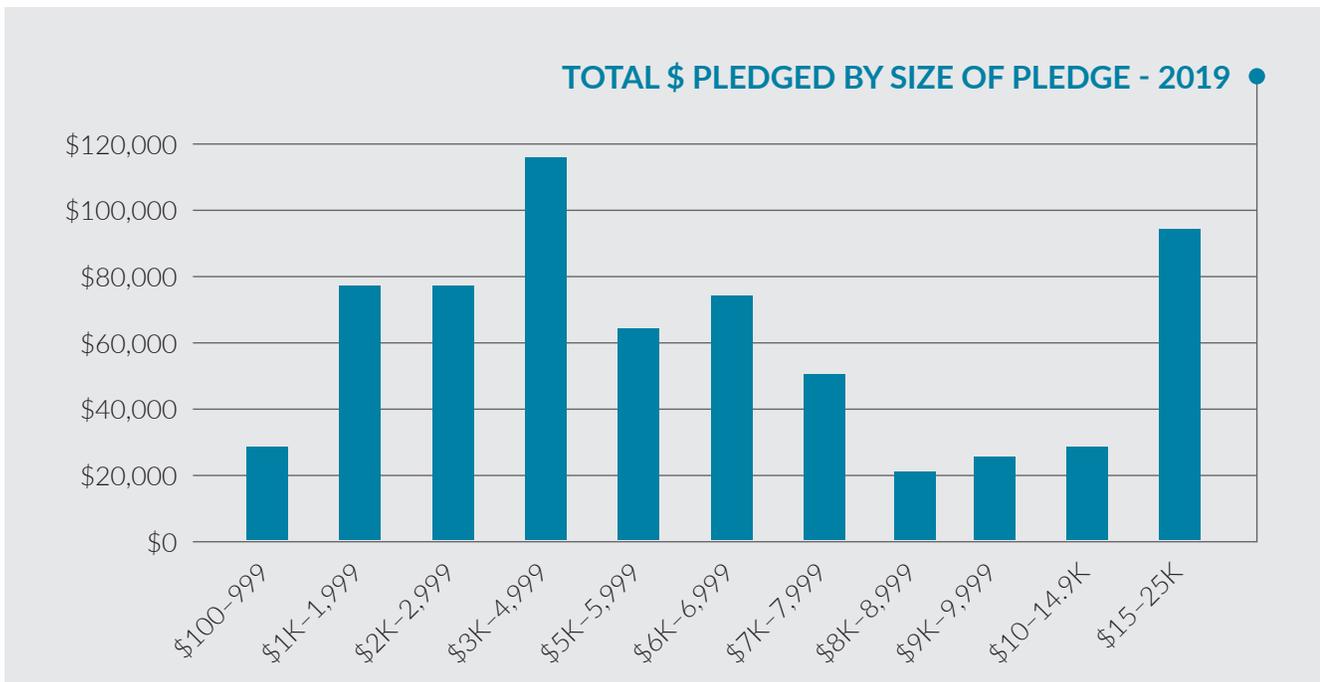
*Giving is a faith practice.
How are you called to use the gifts that you have been given?*

What portion of your financial gifts are you called to give to the church and other causes?

When we give to the church we are investing in each other, our children and youth, and the wider community.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Thank you for your thoughtful discernment in this important faith-based decision.



WHEN DO I PLEDGE?

Anytime! However, our church's annual Stewardship time is in January. We hope that you will be open to the Spirit during the four weeks of our stewardship season as you hear from other members of the church. We ask that all church members and friends take time to discern their giving and make a commitment by the last Sunday in January.

WHEN SHOULD I PAY MY PLEDGE?

- The church prefers quarterly or monthly since our expenses are ongoing throughout the year. Some pay weekly and appreciate the spiritual practice of putting a check in the offering plate each week.
- Annually – some prefer to pay their whole pledge at once. Because your pledge payments pay our bills, it is most helpful for our cash flow if this payment is made in the first quarter of the year.
- However it works for you – *we will make it work for the church!*

HOW CAN I PAY MY PLEDGE?

- *Automatic payment:* You can automatically pay your pledge from your bank account each month. You set this up through your bank. It will help the church office if you make your payment due date between the 5th and the 10th of each month and indicate "2020 pledge" in the memo.
- *Personal check:* Place your check in the offering plate at church or mail to the church. Please write in the memo "2020 pledge."
- *Church Website:* On the home page of www.firstcong.net click on Member Login to log into your personal Realm account. In your account, click on the "Giving" menu item to see your giving record and to make a payment.
- *Credit card:* Text 73256 with the message *joy2givefcc*. You will get a message back guiding you through the process. Please be aware that the church does pay a fee of 2.9% on any credit card charges.
- *Assets:* You can transfer assets to the church to pay your pledge. Appreciated assets are great for the potential tax benefits. For instructions, please email frontdesk@firstcong.net with the words "instructions for asset transfer" in the subject line.

