



Faith Building to love God's people Campaign Prayer

Generous God, open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings. By your love, you call us to be disciples and good stewards of your many gifts. Transform us through the power of your Spirit to use your gifts wisely and share them generously. Empower us to serve others and practice our faith, witnessing to your goodness. Let us put our hearts into our pledges as signs of our trust and faithfulness. Amen.

Common Questions & Answers About Giving

What is our goal for ministry programs? This year to support our ministries and accomplish our intentions for relevant outreach and faithful practices of love, we need \$295,000 in pledges for our 2024 budget.

How much should I give? Giving/pledging is a faith practice that emerges from your relationship with God. The Bible describes a tradition of tithing, which is 10% of your income. We hope that you will consider giving a range of 4-8%. Some givers count their offerings to First Church, along with their other charitable giving, to calculate this amount. Every gift is important and will help us carry out our open and affirming mission to love others.

Resources include: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Bethesda United Church of Christ, and Spring Glen United Church of Christ.

Are there other ways I can give?

YES! You may want to give a gift of stock, mutual fund shares, other property, or a qualified charitable donation. We are currently working on planned giving options from our parishioners. Please contact us to explore your options.

Can I make my pledge online?

YES! A link will be shown in the E-herald, is on our church website under the Giving Tab, and in our campaign materials.

When should I turn in my pledge card?

Pledge Sunday is Nov. 19th. You can submit a commitment online, bring in or mail in a pledge card. If this timeline doesn't work for your planning, a pledge commitment by year end is helpful. Otherwise, pledges are always welcome!

When would I start giving?

The pledge commitment card allows you to decide your frequency of giving—weekly or monthly. Recurring payments through your banking system or our website are options. From your total commitment pledge, you will divide by the frequency to determine the amount.



Stewardship Campaign 2024



...to love God's people



www.firstchurchofmilford.org / 203-877-4277

From The Stewardship Ministry

Dear First Church,

We have much to be grateful for in 2023! We were able to support God's people in the Milford community and beyond, through our Outreach Ministries, Emma Davis Medical Equipment Ministry, the Food Closet, Milford Food 2 Kids, Youth Groups, and other initiatives for addressing food insecurity, housing insecurity, disaster relief, and justice advocacy.

This year we welcomed new staff members, Interim Minister of Music Wonjung Choo, Sexton Sal Ochoa, and Minister of Music Jackie Nappi. Rev. Adam Eckhart, Rev. Ashley Grant, Minister of Faith Formation Kelsey DeCarlo, and Office Administrator Nicole Moore continue to faithfully serve our thriving ministries and vibrant congregation.

In April 2024, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of our third Meetinghouse! While we are excited for this milestone, caretaking for our historic and landmark buildings is a time-intensive and costly responsibility. In 2023, our Trustees oversaw the Plymouth Building's much-needed roofing repair and painting, and they have begun extensive work on the Meetinghouse steeple exterior.

As we care for our community and steward our historic buildings, we look forward to discerning God's next plans for us. In January 2024, a 3-year Strategic Plan will be shared with the congregation. God is still speaking, and we keep listening to minister in love!

Pledge Goal: \$295,000

We ask members and friends of First Church to make a financial commitment in the coming year. These "pledge commitments" make up over 50% of our Operating Budget. To keep our ministries fully funded and thriving, it's important we receive your pledge commitment for 2024. Let's love God's people in 2024!

Blessings,

The Stewardship Ministry

Ed Burns, Michele Olsson, Jasmine Gilbert, Nina Kienzle

Discerning How Much to Give

Start with prayer...



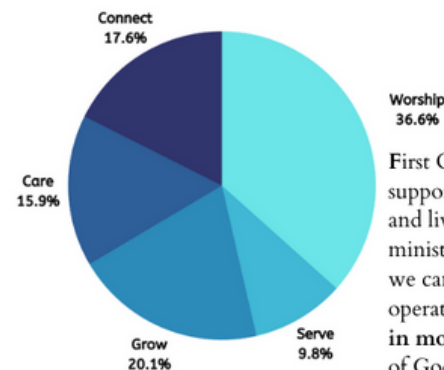
What we hope to accomplish in 2024:



- **Worship & Serve:** Build on faith practices to expand our vision and strengthen our capacity for love and justice, today and tomorrow.
- **Strategic Plan:** Implement 3 Year Plan, coming in January 2024!
- **Bicentennial:** Celebrate the 200 Year Anniversary of the Meetinghouse and the ministries that have been a beacon to God's people.
- **Connect & Care:** Nurture our ministries' initiatives and innovations that serve and enrich the community.
- **Grow:** Inspire families, children and all ages to live faithfully through Christian Community.

Operating Budget Expenses Chart*

*Outreach giving not included in operating budget



First Church relies on your generous and sacrificial support. THANK YOU for all that you do to serve and live out your call. Some of the donations go into ministry, others support personnel and facilities so that we can minister together in this place. Beyond our operating budget 2023, **we will have shared \$239,000+ in monetary and in-kind support** to meet the needs of God's people in the community and beyond.