

October 29, 2026
Dear Members and Friends,

As an Open and Affirming congregation, we seek to embody God's expansive welcome and celebrate every person as a beloved child of God.

What happens when we dream God's dream — and then put our faith into action?

Over the past year at First Church, we have seen the answer. We worshiped at Gulf Beach for six weeks. Thirty-three people traveled to New Hampshire on a mission trip. Eleven youth were confirmed as new members, and 11 more folks joined our church family in membership in September. We celebrated the country's 250th anniversary with our community, welcomed children and young families to VBS, and served 250 children through our White Gift Christmas Ministry. Through worship, fellowship, service, and music, these ministries create milestones and everyday moments that knit us together as a community of faith.

Crucially, we continued to put one of our biggest dreams into action: feeding people. Our Food Pantry responded to a growing need, serving between 50-74 families each month. Through Games for Hunger, First Church brought together faith communities, city partners, organizations, and schools to help fill pantry shelves for the summer. Milford Food 2 Kids continues to provide food each week to 250 children and youth. Through the Emma Davis Medical Equipment Ministry, neighbors can borrow medical equipment at no cost.

This is what being a Changemaker looks like: someone who puts faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Jesus was a Changemaker—and the Good News is that we are, too. We are the people we have been waiting for, and our greatest resources are the compassion, creativity, collaboration, love, time, talents, and generosity God has already placed among us.

We give because First Church is more than a place we attend — it is a community where we worship God, grow in faith, and walk alongside one another through life's milestones and everyday moments. Here, children learn that they are known and loved, individuals and families find connection and support, and music lifts our prayers and draws us into deeper worship. Our commitments sustain this spiritual work and help ensure that this community of faith remains welcoming, vibrant, and strong for all who come through its doors.

Now we get to ask: **What comes next?**

Stewardship Campaign 2027

CHANGE MAKERS

changing lives together

In 2027, we hope to continue strengthening the ministries that make a difference while dreaming about important building improvements, an outdoor ministry space with a playground and gathering area. We also have a big wish for our Meetinghouse: air conditioning for the sanctuary.

On November 8, *See What Is Possible*, we will celebrate what God is already doing through First Church and imagine what might be next. On November 15, *Put Faith Into Action*, we will make our pledge commitments for 2027. Please bring your commitment card on November 15 or return it to the church office.

Our stewardship goal for 2027 is $400,000, to reach our ambitious dreams. Our operating budget pledge goal is at least $341,000, supported by our commitments ($325,000 from 2026 plus 5%, based on the Strategic Plan).

Thank you for all the ways you already put your faith into action. Your giving, serving, welcoming, music-making, dreaming, and willingness to take risks for something good make our faith visible in the world. Together, we are changing lives today and helping shape tomorrow.

Together, we are Changemakers!

With gratitude,

The Stewardship Ministry

If you would like to speak with a member of the ministry (Sarah, Stephanie, Vinny or Jennifer), email us at firstuccmilfordstewardship@gmail.com and we'll be in touch!

Still need to complete your pledge for 2026?

Want to give a non-monetary gift by sharing your time & talent?

Ready to make your 2027 pledge?

Pledge Form 2027