



November 1, 2023

November is our First Congregational Stewardship Month - a time to renew or initiate our commitment to the work of our church. As we budget to fully support our local and wider missions, all contributions to the church help support our work and are appreciated. However, our pledges provide the most accurate estimate of the resources to which we as a church can commit as we create our Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

Our church has a strong culture of generosity. We need only look at the work of our pastor, along with the Outreach, Faith Formation, and Worship Committees to see visible evidence of our good work. We also can recognize the significant efforts to ensure our viability and vitality in the work of our Membership, Buildings and Grounds/Technology, Finance, PPRC, Executive, and Nominating Committees. In addition, there is the “quiet” ministry when our pastor or church members respond to personal needs – *and there are many.*

Our wider mission, carried out by our Wisconsin Conference and the United Church of Christ, engages us in broader ministries of justice and provides resources for faith formation, outdoor ministries, and many more “good works.”

As a church, we are grateful for the 46 individuals and families who are currently supporting our church with pledges and for those who contribute in other ways. Nonetheless, we are challenged to meet our First Congregational Church’s financial needs. Pastor Jeffrey has been talking with us in his sermons about “Abundant Life.” As we look to actively carry out our many missions this next year and in our future years ahead, we need to increase the number of our pledges this year.

Pastor Jeffrey’s goal for this year is to receive a pledge commitment from every family unit and many active friends of the church. Pledging is the most effective way for everyone to support our local and wider missions. Pledging is an opportunity for everyone to support the good work of our church. Pledges of \$5 to \$100 per month make a significant difference when added to pledges from those who can afford more. Please join us in making a pledge as you are able by November 19, 2023. Making a pledge is quick and easy using one of these options.

- Complete and submit the First Congregational Online Pledge Form: [www.riponcongregationalucc.org/pledge](http://www.riponcongregationalucc.org/pledge)
- Complete the enclosed Pledge Card and mail it in the enclosed envelope.
- Complete the enclosed Pledge Card and drop it in the offering plate on November 5, 12, or 19.

Your pledge is confidential whether you make it online, by mail, or drop it in the offering plate. We welcome you to contact Bill Neill (920-896-1557), Andy Lyke (920-858-4116) or Pastor Jeffrey (920-748-5898) with questions about making your pledge. During our November 19 worship service, we look forward to celebrating our collective generosity that will provide robust commitment to our missions!

Blessings,

Kaitlyn Boscaljon, Cal Edwards, Jeffrey Dodson, Mary Iserman, Andy Lyke, Bill Neill, Judy Neill, Daniel Volkmann



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