



The Stewardship Committee would like to take a different approach for our 2023 Pledge Campaign. All of us are aware of the cost to maintain our homes and property. The same holds true for our Church. We have costs associated with the Operational expenses of the church as well as supporting our community and outreach programs. The Operations revenue that is received comes mainly from our pledge donations. Other revenue comes from:

- Christmas-Easter-Lenten envelope donations
- Fund raising events like Main Street Festival, Christmas Fair, Bricks for Prayer Garden, Gift Card purchases
- Church Hall rental
- Amazon Smile

The expenses related to the operation of the church are as follows:

- Salary and Wages
- Office Administration costs
- Occupancy of the church costs such as
 - Repair, Service & Maintenance for copy/postage machine, Terminex and HVAC
 - Paper goods
 - Church cleaning
 - Ground Maintenance
 - Snow Removal
 - Trash removal
 - Burglar Alarm monitoring
 - Electric, Gas Oil and Water
- General Liability Insurance
- Payroll and Accounting Services
- Dues and Subscriptions (Fairfield East, Educational Conference, UCC dues)
- Music Operations
- Board and Committee Expenses
- Church School
- Other Miscellaneous Expenses (bank service charges, flowers, pledge envelope and financial advisory fee)

Our community and outreach programs also need to be supported as well which is done through income to Benevolence. This revenue comes from your pledge donations to Benevolence. The programs supported by Benevolence are:

- UCC Wider Mission
- Bridgeport Council of Churches
- Silver Lake Scholarships
- Sterling House Good Start Adopt-A-Family
- Sponsorship Programs (Campus Crusade, Covenant to Care, Stratford Clergy Assoc, Habitat for Humanity, Emerge Inc, Holy Joe's Café and CT Food Bank)
- Special Programs (Zambia Orphanage, Lord's Kitchen and Nourish Bridgeport)

As you can see there is a lot going on at First Church Stratford and you all help support these expenses and missions through your pledge donations. We want to continue to support, as well as grow, our church and outreach programs in our community and beyond. We, the Stewardship Committee, are reaching out to all our members and friends of First Church Stratford and asking that you consider increasing your pledge, if possible, to **5% of your income**. Also, when you pledge, please consider designating **10% of your total pledge to Benevolence** so they can continue to support our missions and outreach programs. We will have the "Steward Ship" in church on November 20th for you to drop your pledge cards into or they can be mailed or dropped off at church. Pledges are important as the Trustees use these pledges to determine the budget for the new year. Just as you handle your personal checking account, having information on monies coming in helps you know you can pay your bills.

Please return you pledge card even if you use EFT. Remember that a pledge can be can be adjusted up or down if circumstances dictate with a phone call to the church.

Thank you for your generosity and support though the years. Help us continue to grow our church and expand our outreach programs in the community. Remember, we are a church that truly believes **LOVE COMES FIRST!**

The Stewardship Committee

Carol Vass, Co-Chair	Ingmar Eggen	Lynne Pert
Helen O'Brien, Co-Chair	Virginia Millington	Judy Therrien
Cindy Buckley	Jennifer Nyquist	Steve Wasko

PLEASE BRING YOUR PLEDGE ON STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY,

NOVEMBER 20, AND PLACE IT IN THE STEWARD SHIP!