



November 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

The other day in worship, a first-time visitor leaned over to the person who invited her and said, *"I've dreamed of a church like this. Can I come back?"* Whether a first-time visitor or long-time community member, our church changes lives by answering God's call to love. In countless ways, big and small, we support each other through joys and times of loss and grief. Our beloved Monroe Congregational Church welcomes those who've felt disconnected and isolated from God and their neighbors, making the world a kinder place, one small act at a time.

The work within and beyond our church can happen because of the generous financial and volunteer support of our community. Because of you, our church community is rooted in love, to share God's good news. While there are many ways large and small to support the congregation, our annual stewardship campaign, which begins Sunday, November 7th, provides us a chance to think in a prayerful way about the choices we make in support of the church.

We hope that you can return the enclosed Commitment Card by the end of November to the church office, either by mailing it to MCC at 34 Church Street, Monroe CT 06468 or dropping it in the plate on Sunday. For contact-free submission, go to our church's donate page (www.mcc-ucc.org/donate) and download an editable PDF to email to our Receiver, John O'Rourke e-mail him at jorourke224@gmail.com.

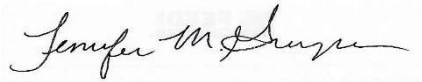
If you are financially capable of increasing your pledge this year, know that it helps not only our ministry but those who aren't quite as capable to give right now. Every gift, of any and every size, counts. And we thank you for them!

You can send your offering to the church, have your bank send a check from your account or give electronically on our website: www.mcc-ucc.org/donate. This is a safe and convenient way to regularly support your church on a weekly or monthly basis, even when you aren't able to physically be in worship.

We are so grateful for the many ways you have supported MCC's ministries in 2021. We've included a brief financial update from chair of Trustees, Mark Barnhart, so that you are aware of how our finances are tracking at this time. As we look

forward with hope to our next year together as a faith community, we want to say THANK YOU for your faithful commitment to God's unfolding mission among us!

With much hope and gratitude,



Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Trustees Fall 2021 Update:

I reported earlier in this month's Steeple that MCC is on track to conclude 2021 on budget. Thankfully, MCC again received \$39,511 under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which helped offset the loss of other income. This was a big help in meeting our financial commitments this year.

Another factor is pledge income, which makes up 60% of our budget. Here, too we are largely on pace, but we need to finish strong. A big thank you to everyone for staying current with your pledge commitments! Many members have shifted their giving to the electronic Vanco system, which has made it easier for the member to give and for the Trustees to track (<http://mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>).

We derive some income from rentals, where we benefitted from a resumption of in-person programming, and the return of the summer day camp and Gingerbread School. We were able to hold a safe Strawberry Festival in June, which netted \$12,337 after expenses. And, despite having drawn \$25K from our investment reserves to help with liquidity earlier this year, our investment accounts increased in value thanks to the performance of the stock market.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2021 Capital Campaign! Thanks to your support, we were able to raise \$11,710 toward the painting of Rexford. The Trustees have since contracted with Bill Schiebe, who has done work for us previously. The total cost of the project is \$13,020, with work expected to begin in late October, weather permitting.

Expenses to date are either running at, or slightly under budget, which we hope will continue. In other good news, MCC received confirmation this past month that it had fully satisfied all conditions for forgiveness of its original 2020 PPP loan of \$42,700 from Newtown Savings Bank. Many thanks to Fred Dubois, Bill Stadler and Frank Wittenauer for their work in seeing this through.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to the Monroe Congregational Church.

- Mark Barnhart, Chair of Trustees