

Foundation For Our Future
Stewardship Theme 2021
South Congregational Church, Granby, CT
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Outline of ideas

This outline was the jumping off point for the campaign. This provided a “map” for ideas to be incorporated in worship planning and sermons through out the stewardship season. Cornerstones include the scriptural guidance to give out of first fruits and in proportion to the blessings we have received.

Gratitude

For life
For love and beauty in the world
Gifts, not earned or deserved

How can I keep from singing

Generosity

Flows from gratitude
Celebrates life
Multiplies love and beauty
Begins with wonder – unearned, part of life

How can I keep from giving

First Fruits

Flows from gratitude

Thinking first of others, putting others before ourselves, or putting others on par with ourselves

Loving our neighbors is loving ourselves

Be the change you want to see in the world

Create the world you want to live in

All areas of life, not primarily or exclusively about money

Proportional Giving

Flows from gratitude

Celebrates life

Adds meaning and significance to life

We are part of something bigger than ourselves

Comes from the same place as first fruits – as natural as one had washing the other

Money

is not excluded, is not the exception

it is in our nature to be generous

standing in opposition to mass consumerism and measuring success through

consumption and asset accumulation

Our lives and our church

Faithful living is a journey towards wholeness

To seeing and cultivating that God/Other/Sacred/Holy is within us and within all people, between us and others, and beyond us and others

We support the church to be better people and to help create a better world

Individual and Congregational

This theme can be church-centric - gifts of time, talent and treasure will be the foundation of the church's future – and this theme can work at the individual/family level as well - generosity as a/the cornerstone of our lives.

Both can flow out of the gratitude leads to generosity theme, and first fruits and proportional giving really work better as individual faith practices than formulas for supporting the church. In fact, there is real danger is presenting these practices as being good because they benefit the church, as opposed to being good because they benefit the donors and the world we live in.

People need to give

People need to give like they need to eat. If you don't give or eat, you are starving yourself. You can also give or eat poorly or well. If we eat poorly, too much junk, we are not going to be as healthy and we are not being kind to ourselves. If we give poorly, reluctantly, parsimoniously, out of shame or guilt, we are not going to be as spiritually/psychologically/emotionally healthy. We are going to get sort of out of shape - focusing more on ourselves, selfishly, self-centerly (new word!) and suppress gratitude and connections with others.

Starting your day with a good breakfast and starting your financial planning with a commitment to giving (first fruits) are connected ideas.

The foundation for our future is the faithful commitment of our congregation to the mission and ministry of our church. Our faithful commitment is a share of our time, skills and talents, and financial resources. Faithful commitment is rooted in gratitude, for our time, skills and talents, and financial resources are gifts. Like a singer whose natural talent is cultivated to reach its full potential, we can cultivate what we have been given.

The goal is not to get to heaven, but to be more fully human. Generosity, giving ourselves away, is when we are most fully human. Letting go of individual identity and autonomy to feel connected to others and all of creation. The paradox of faith/love, loving people makes them more lovable and/or more worthy of love. Being compassionate/being generous.

Brainstorming

We supplemented our stewardship committee with some creative members of the congregation for a brainstorming session. How can we illustrate the Foundation For Our Future theme? We quickly hit on the idea of using Legos. We did not use all of these ideas, but they are here for others to toy with.

Some ways to interact with LEGOs and the theme of building....members of the congregation can receive a Lego piece. Together we can come together to build a structure, each piece representing a hope/dream for GCC. (examples.....talented musicians, faithful volunteers, etc.) We can share as we add our LEGOs, or write these down.

We can do color coded building...an activity where we separate LEGOS by colors and we create a structure. Try to recreate a LEGO image that has multiple colored LEGOS.

The colors would represent different aspects of our church.

Red-People. We need people, volunteers, children, staff. Green- Buildings. We need Buildings, lighting, plowing, etc. BLUE- community engagement- Outreach initiatives, donations, etc.

YELLOW- Misc- We need to pay for copier paper, website, printer ink, etc.

The idea is that we need to have \$ to fund all of our foundational bricks. We cannot build the church (image we are trying to recreate) alone with just Green blocks or Blue blocks. We need to have all of the different kinds.

LEGO people....We can send each member a LEGO person and when they pledge they can bring it back, adding it to a larger display? (This may need some tweaking but the idea of LEGO people I like)

We can also do activities where we split into groups and each group tries to build a structure/church/building. All groups are given the same exact LEGOS....color, size, amount. When we reconvene we will realize all of the structures are different in some way. This can be a

good way of conceptualizing that everyone has their own values, their own gifts, their own energies that they use to build the church up and help keep the church strong. That begs the question...what are you bringing to our foundation? Where do you "fit" in? What are your values? Are you interested in supporting the building and grounds? Do you hope your pledge goes to programming? Music? Fellowship?

Another thought with LEGO building for Stewardship is doing a timed activity. A LEGO project (a pattern or base) but only having 5-10 min to complete it. Pretty quick, no one will get it all completed with finding the LEGOS they need and matching the plan/instructions. The idea and lesson there is that building our foundation will take time and intention and patience. It's not something that we can accomplish quickly. We are inspired to lay our bricks thoughtfully, and that requires our church to have funds to thrive.

The takeaway with LEGOS (for me) is that we are doing something tangible (building with our hands with LEGO bricks) as we are spiritually and intentionally building GCC. We need to connect to build, we need multiple blocks to have a strong foundation, etc. We can do small group things, intergenerational things, etc. Also, everyone loves LEGOS. :)

The brainstorming led to an announcement skit.

Announcement Skit

Setup: This requires having a large bag of children's snap together building blocks, something like Legos Duplos, although there are generic versions that are less expensive. We used two of these sets -

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07LC3P3LY/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&th=1

Pour them all into some sort of Santa Claus sack and put the sack in a children's wagon. We found a classic Radio Flyer wagon to use.

Our worship service includes a children's moment, where the Director of Faith Formation (Sarah) calls the children forward for a message. This happens near the beginning of the service and then the children go off to Sunday School (except once a month we have an intergenerational service where families stay in worship together.). The second player (Gary) can be anyone who enjoys playacting. The script was an outline, there was some improvisation involved.

Skit begins:

Sarah starts with the normal pattern of calling children forward. As she makes some comment about children coming out of the woodwork or such, Scott enters from the lift hallway pulling a wagon with a sack with all of the building blocks. He looks for Pastor Liz.

Gary: Did I make it in time for announcements? I've got an important announcement!

Sarah: Mr. Tracy, you are too late. Can't you see that I am starting the moment for all ages?

Gary: But this is important!

Sarah: I guess you'll have to wait until next week.

Gary: Oh, I see. Well... You know though, I bet the kids would really like to see what is in this bag. (Shakes bag.)

Sarah: But I have my own plan. I was going to talk to the kids about good nutrition (or something else that doesn't sound interesting). Maybe we should ask the kids. Do you want to find out what is in the bag (Scott shakes) or hear about good nutrition?

Hopefully the kids clamor for the bag.

Sarah: Okay, I give up. What's in the bag?

Gary: (With a flourish, empties the bag into the wagon and announces.) This is the Foundation for our future! (Most of the script can be improvised, but it is important to get this line exactly as written. We have a large monitor in our sanctuary and this line was the cue to show the Foundation For Our Future logo.) The future of Granby Congregational Church.

Sarah: (skeptical) But these are plastic building blocks! You can't be serious! We can't build our future on little plastic building blocks

Gary: Don't be so literal. We need to use our imagination. These blocks are symbols. Kids a symbol is something that has a special meaning. In the Bible, in the story of Noah's Ark, God tells Noah that a rainbow will be a sign – a symbol – of God's love for God's people. The rainbow isn't God's love, but it reminds us of God's love.

Sarah: So how will these building blocks remind us of our foundation?

Gary: Our foundation is gratitude. Gratitude for the gift of life, for time to enjoy and do meaningful things, for skills and experiences to cultivate and share, and for the opportunity to earn and spend money so that we can take care of ourselves and other people.

Sarah: That's a lot to be grateful for. (to the kids and the congregation) What are some of the things you are grateful for? (Prompt as necessary.. Are you grateful you have food, clothing, a home, a family, a pet, hopefully the kids will start volunteering and some of the adults to.)

Gary: We have a lot to be grateful for! And gratitude inspires generosity, and generosity is the foundation of the church. Gratitude and generosity, generosity and gratitude.

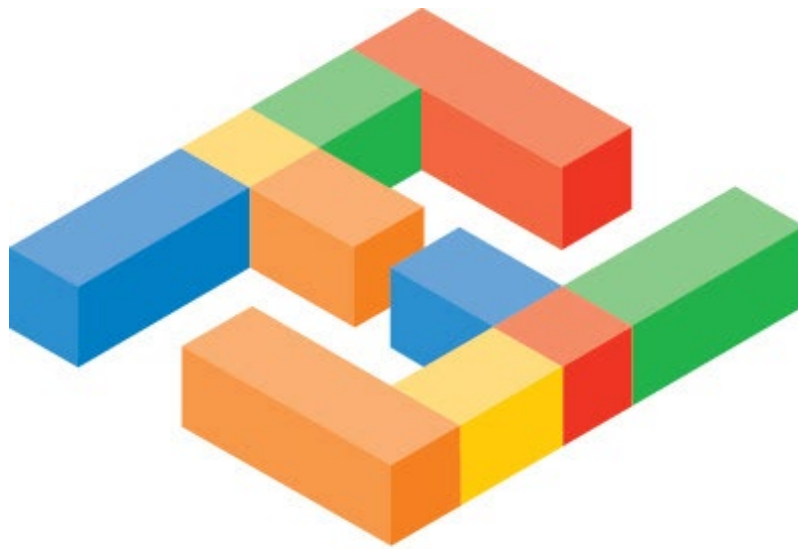
Sarah: You're not going to start singing (hopefully this is a laugh line, wait for it)

Gary: No, I don't think people want to hear me sing. We do want people to share what they think we need to build the foundation of the church, including our gratitude. We will be using the blocks to share our hopes in the coming weeks, writing on them and building with them. This is just the beginning! Stay tuned. And that is my important announcement!

Sarah dismisses kids.

Week 1 Follow up Message

While we have a weekly eNewsletter, we decided to have a separate weekly eBlast with stewardship messages. These messages went out on Tuesdays and also ran in our weekly eNewsletter that goes out on Fridays.



FOUNDATION
for our
FUTURE

The logo is from John Stevenson. john@funlinedesigns.com

Our stewardship campaign theme is Foundation For Our Future. There are many building blocks in our foundation, including gratitude. Gratitude for the gift of life, for time to enjoy and do meaningful things, for skills and experiences to cultivate and share, and for the opportunity to earn and spend money so that we can take care of ourselves and other people.

The Message for All this past Sunday introduced our them ein a playful way, using plastic building blocks. We will be using the blocks to share our hopes in the coming weeks, writing on them and building with them. This is just the beginning!

Stay tuned!

Week 2 in Church

Setup: We bought a pile of food serving boats -

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BKR412TG/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1 and a bunch of inexpensive markers -

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BG6ZSVGX/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&th=1 and put a few bricks and a marker in each boat and spread them around the pews in the sanctuary.

After a moment of testimony about gratitude (you can see a video of the skit and all of the stewardship moments here -

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7P1VHkkUiGvPzk3uTAN0udvKoBlhpCVq> we invited everyone present, members, friends, and visitors – to add a word to a brick that describes what we need for a strong foundation for Granby Congregational Church’s future.

We then collected all of the bricks in baskets.

Week 2 Follow Up Message

Stewardship is the Christian belief that we are called to be stewards – responsible for and caretakers of – God’s creation. One way we live out that stewardship is by committing to care for the church through our financial resources and gifts of time. For the next several weeks, we will hear testimonies about how we are building the foundation of Granby Congregational Church’s future together. We are asked to prayerfully consider how we might commit to being a steward of GCC in the coming year as we continue to build a strong, faithful foundation.

This week's testimony was from Carolyn Dittes

[Carolyn's testimony](#)

This week we also worked on building our foundation in another way. Everyone present was asked to write a word to a building block that describes what we need for a Granby Congregational Church’s future. You can add your own words by following this link -

<https://www.menti.com/alhu16tcspib>

If you want to know more about this Faith In Our Future project, watch this

[Foundation For Our Future](#)

After we collected our building blocks, we prayed together:

Brick by brick, prayer by prayer, we are building the future of this church! May we give

ourselves to service with a spirit of gratitude and generosity! May we give ourselves to service joyfully, knowing that we are called to be the church together! Amen!

Stay tuned for more!

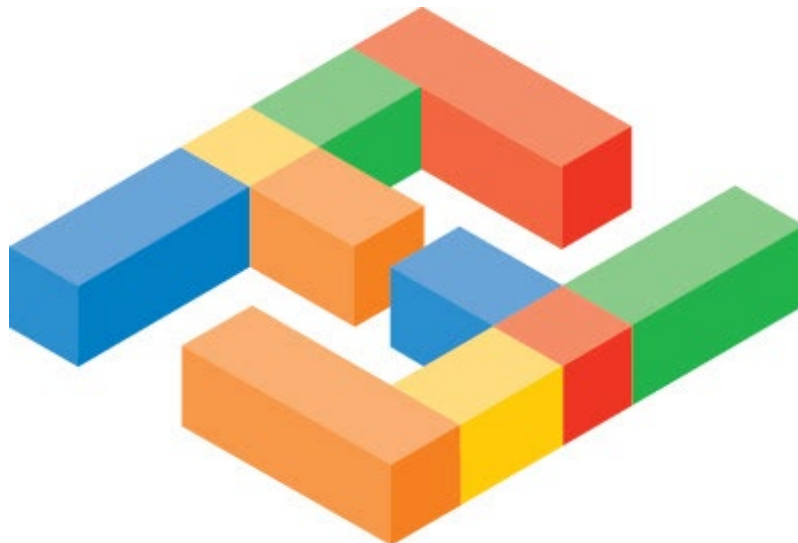
We copied down all of the words on the bricks and used them to build a word cloud.

We then gave all of the bricks to our Director of Faith Formation and asked her to work with the kids to create something heart related to point us toward love as a teachable moment. It's not just our commandment to love God and love our neighbors - our gratitude flows from God's love and how we see God's love at work in our lives and in the world. If we believe God creates out of love, and creates us for love, our response to that is gratitude. Our kids surprised us though.

Week 3 in Church

We had another moment of testimony about gratitude and a sermon about "First Fruits" giving.

Week 3 Follow Up Message



FOUNDATION
for our
FUTURE

At Granby Congregational Church, gratitude is part of our foundation. Our deep appreciation of the wonders of this life lead us to ask, “How will we use this gratitude or allow it to transform us?” On Sunday we reflected on a story from Deuteronomy about how the gratitude the Israelites felt in arriving from the wilderness to a land of milk & honey enabled them to develop a three-part action-reflection model of gratitude:

1. Offer your “first fruits” back to God, giving away the best of what you have so that others might experience a similar blessing.
2. Tell the story of your gratitude! Remember your “why” that causes you to serve and give to others.
3. Celebrate! When giving and serving comes from a place of joy, that leads to communal celebration and a shared culture of gratitude.

What do these practices have to do with us today? This is a process we enact in the church, both in worship and through our ministry teams. We are encouraged to give back – our time and our treasure – from a place of gratitude, knowing it will benefit our wider community and have a positive impact on our neighbors. We tell stories of our gratitude, of what we love about our church, and of our dreams for the future. Click here to hear Joyce Burbank’s testimony about her gratitude for the church. <https://youtu.be/VBSj88t6q5U?si=5KF-RSK9-FyTU0kK&t=3400>

And, we celebrate! With ice cream socials, with spontaneous applause after a moving music piece, with the blessings we pour out on each other and our ministries – we are a people grounded in gratitude and joyful praise in everything we do.

This gratitude, our stories, and our joy is the spirit in which we consider how to steward the future of Granby Congregational Church. May we continue to ponder and pray about how we might offer our first fruits to this incredible ministry we are called to nurture and grow.

Week 4 in church

Link to order of worship - <https://files.constantcontact.com/0935cb59401/3ebea26f-ce52-46fd-8060-f74f31710308.pdf?rdr=true>

The Director of Faith Formation unveiled what the kids built with the bricks – a representation of our actual church. You have to watch the video clip to fully appreciate it. We had a stewardship themed sermon and they a stewardship moment where people were asked to consider their pledges to the church.

Sermon Excerpt on The Good Samaritan

November 12, 2023

Pastor Liz Miller, Granby Congregational Church

We need the ability to plan for the future of the church in the coming year, which requires a financial commitment. We know how big the needs are in our community - not just for food security but for a spiritually grounded place where you can bring your full self, a place where teens and kids can learn about service and justice and compassion, a place where ADULTS can learn about service and justice and compassion together.

Our church is sustained by financial commitments that its members and friends make each year. This is what we call pledges. When we are able to look at the year ahead and say, "I am able to show up and help with this amount," it is akin to when the Good Samaritan tells the innkeeper, "Take care of him and I'll be back to pay whatever else you need." Our pledges are one way of saying, "I'll be back, and I'll keep supporting the ministry of this church." When we have an annual practice of pledging, it is our opportunity to consider if we have the bandwidth or the resources to deepen the commitment we made the previous year, knowing that the needs and opportunities will always outpace the budget.

Yesterday morning, the Finance Committee met with the Council to begin building the budget for 2024. We were in Cook Hall at the North Campus with a giant excel spreadsheet that was projected onto the wall. The numbers looked huge. They were overwhelming, especially because we knew what we wanted to do as a church was greater than would likely be coming in this next year. That's always the case, but knowing it doesn't make it easier to find a way forward that is both faithful and bold.

When we were sitting there staring at the giant numbers, I noticed there were two signs flanking the projected spreadsheet. On the left there was a sign above a door that said

EMERGENCY EXIT ONLY. And on the right, there was a banner that said BE A BLESSING. With every turn of the conversation, I noticed that we started by veering toward the emergency exit – should we cross the road? - but we would always end back in the direction of BE A BLESSING. The leaders of Granby Congregational Church charted a path for the coming year that is counting on this church being a blessing to its community, to its members, to its neighbors. We're not settling for sneaking out the side exit. We're not basing decisions on worst case scenario. We are committed to being a blessing.

We're striving to live out a Good Samaritan faith that calls on all of us to help with our actions, our volunteer time in whatever ways that is possible for your life, and our financial commitments in whatever ways that is possible for your life. We are striving to live out a Good Samaritan faith that shows up on the scene as soon as the need is identified - as soon as we encounter suffering - and a faith that says we promise to come back later and give more.

We know the stories that lay beneath the foundation of this church. We know stories of pain and indifference, but also of hope and love. We are committed to learning from them, using them, and honoring those histories as together we build a foundation for our future that follows in Jesus's footsteps, that lives out his commandment for mercy and love, and that inspires others to come with us. May we go and do likewise.

Alternative words to How Can I Keep From Singing

My life is lived in gratitude,
Each day in God's creation,
And in this church, we place great hope
Upon our new foundation.
With open doors and tender hearts,
Together faithful living.
A future strong for Granby Church,

How can we keep from giving?

We serve our neighbors near and far,
Christ's love the map to guide us.
We feed and clothe, we laugh and cry,
The work ahead excites us.
Our mission strong, our call so bold!
Each person here is needed.
A future strong for Granby Church,
How can we keep from giving?

Stewardship Letter

Dear

Granby Congregational Church is less than a year old. We have accomplished much, but we are still a work in progress! All that we have accomplished and all that we will accomplish reflects the commitment of our members and friends.

We have described the **Foundation For Our Future** in different ways. **Gratitude. Generosity. Love.** On Homecoming Sunday in September, we sang **All You Need Is Love**. This is certainly true, if we are speaking about **love in action** and not just love as a warm, fuzzy feeling. **Love in action** is how we incarnate God's love for our neighbors and ourselves, as followers of Jesus. When we see people in need, we don't say, "Peace to you! God loves you!" We work to address their needs. When we see injustice, we don't say, "Don't worry, God loves you!" and leave it at that. It is true that God loves all people unconditionally, but God calls us to put God's love into action. **All We Need Is Love! Love in action!**

We know that resources help transform our love into action. This is where you come in. Each year we ask people to prayerfully consider their financial commitment to Granby Congregational Church. **Pledging is a faith practice, a way of aligning our money with God's purposes in the world.**

Financial pledges nurture our children as they explore service through hands-on learning. They provide hospitality in our buildings for community groups and outreach organizations. They cultivate rousing worship services and sacred moments as a congregation. They help send us into the community to serve our ministry partners by donating supplies, organizing volunteer groups, and financially supporting their work. Our pledges take a basic foundation and grow us into a radically welcoming, mission focused, life-giving, faith community.

Enclosed is a pledge card for 2024. We ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment in the coming year. No matter the amount, your pledge allows us to anticipate how we might put our love into action in 2024 as we build the foundation for our future.

Your Board of Stewardship,
Walter Ford, Charlie Kuchenbrod & Liz Miller

The pledge letter was sent with one of three inserts, depending on the household's pledging status:

For people that pledged in the past, but not last year
SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR YOU!

We appreciate your past support for First Congregational Church or South Congregational Church. You helped us to create Granby Congregational Church! We can imagine many reasons for why you didn't pledge to GCC in its first year of existence.

Most of these reasons have little or nothing to do with GCC. Your life circumstances may have changed. Maybe you were drifting away from the congregation and would not have pledged in any case. You may have had a strong connection to one or more of the clergy people that left in 2022 prior to the creation of GCC.

Perhaps, though, it has everything to do with GCC. Perhaps you are grieving the closure of First or South Congregational Church. Perhaps you did not support the merger. Perhaps you were just waiting to see what happened, especially just waiting to see who the new pastor would be.

If you have drifted away, please come back! We miss you and hope you will re-join our community.

If you have been waiting to see how things will turn out, we think there are many positive signs that things are turning out well!

If you have been waiting to see who the new pastor is, we hope that you have already met Pastor Liz. If you haven't, come to church or make an appointment to see her.

If you have some question or concern, please reach out to Pastor Liz, a member of our Stewardship Committee, or one of our deacons. Call Sue in the church office at 860.653.4537 and she will help you get connected to the appropriate person.

Pledges are the primary source of funds for our congregation and our future financial viability depends on the generosity of our members and friends. The commitment to share time, talent and treasure is, in fact, the foundation for our future.

You are more than welcome, whether or not you pledge. Please consider pledging for 2024.

For people that have not pledged for more than a year
SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR YOU!

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your life or faith journey, you are welcome at Granby Congregational church!

We depend on our members and friends to share their time, skills and experiences and financial resources with our congregation. The commitment to sharing is essential to our congregation's spiritual vitality and financial viability. At the same time, there are no membership dues or mandatory service requirements. All sharing is voluntary.

This special message is for people that have not pledged in recent years. You belong! We are glad you are a part of our community. We are asking you now to deepen your commitment to our congregation with a financial gift.

If you have been waiting to see how things will turn out with the merger of the two congregations, we think there are many positive signs that things are turning out well!

If you have been waiting to see who the new pastor is, we hope that you have already met Pastor Liz. If you haven't, come to church or make an appointment to see her.

If you have some question or concern that needs to be addressed for you to make a financial contribution, please reach out to Pastor Liz, a member of our Stewardship Committee, or one of our deacons. Call Sue in the church office at 860.653.4537 and she will help you get connected to the appropriate person.

Pledges are the primary source of funds for our congregation and our future financial viability depends on the generosity of our members and friends. The commitment to share time, talent and treasure is, in fact, the foundation for our future.

If you are uncomfortable making a pledge, please consider a one-time gift to the church. All gifts are appreciated! All gifts matter!

You are more than welcome, whether or not you provide financial support. Please consider pledging or making a one-time gift for 2024.

For new members

SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR YOU!

Welcome! As someone who has recently become a member or recently become engaged with our congregation, we want to share some information about the financial life of our congregation. You may have been raised in our tradition or participated in a similar tradition, but we don't want to assume anything!

Granby Congregational Church is financially independent. We own our own assets, employ our own staff, and cover all of our own expenses. While we are a member of the United Church of Christ, the denomination does not provide financial support for local churches.

We pay for everything out of our own resources. Our largest source of funds, by far, is contributions from our members and friends. We have other sources of funds, including investment income, rental income, and fundraisers. We also have various "savings accounts" – reserve funds set aside for specific purposes, either by donor instructions or congregational choices.

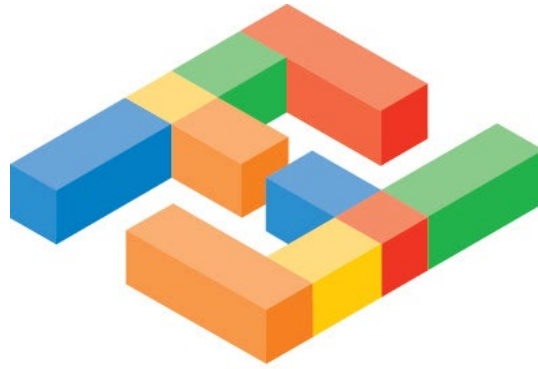
Most of our members pledge, making a commitment to provide financial support over the course of the year. Pledging is not required and we do not have membership dues. All giving is voluntary. Our budget is determined, in large part, by how much people give.

The average pledge in 2023 was just under \$3,000 per year. The median pledge (half the pledges are higher and half the pledge were lower) was \$1,200.

A pledge is not a contract. We understand that life circumstances may change and you may not be able to fulfill a pledge. Pledges allow us to make financial plans, which is essential for good stewardship.

We would be happy to answer your questions. Pastor Liz or one of our deacons will be happy to refer you to the right person.

Week 4 Follow up message



FOUNDATION *for our* FUTURE

On October 22, we distributed building blocks in worship and asked people to write words on them that describe what we need for Granby Congregational Church's future. We then gave the blocks to our children and asked them to literally build a foundation for our future. This Sunday, Sarah Pradhan, our Director of Faith Formation, presented the amazing work.

[Link to Sarah's Message](#)

Stewardship is the Christian belief that we are called to be stewards - responsible for and caretakers of - God's creation. One way we live out that stewardship is by committing to care for the church through our financial resources and gifts of time. Here is Walter Ford with this week's Stewardship Moment:

[Link to Walter's Message](#)

We invite you to commit to being a steward of GCC with a financial pledge for 2024 as we continue to build a strong, faithful foundation. You should receive a stewardship invitation and pledge card in the mail this week. Please return your pledge card or fill out your pledge card online:

[Online Pledge Card](#)

Appendix: Prompts for daily discipline of prayer and action

The idea here is to text or email prompts that will encourage gratitude and generosity. Could be daily, weekly or at some other interval. It could be a part of a stewardship campaign or at some other time of the year, perhaps Lent. Here are some fully created prompts and some “seeds” for more. The pattern is to pray first and then act.

Pray: Prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude, prayers for wisdom and guidance.

Act: Actions to express and practice generosity. If you can't act immediately, try to carry the intention to act with you until the opportunity arises.

Some prompts:

Think of a teacher that had an impact on your life. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Consider something you can do today to be a teacher, or support a teacher, or honor a teacher. Do it!

Think of the best Christmas present you got as a child. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Consider how you could make someone feel the way you did when you received the gift. Do it! Or go to www.toysfortotsbox.com and donate a toy for a child.

Think of a time when someone encouraged you. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Who do you know that would appreciate a word of encouragement from you today? Do it!

Think of a time when someone lifted your spirit. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. What can you do to lift someone's spirit today? Do it.

Think of a time when someone made a sacrifice for your benefit. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Is there a sacrifice you are willing to make to help someone else? Do it!

Think of a time when someone listened carefully to you. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Who can you listen carefully to today? Do it.

Do you have a best friend or best friends? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Tell them today that you are grateful for their friendship.

Do you have a reliable car? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. How can you use your car to help someone who does not have convenient and reliable transportation. Do it!

Do you have a more than adequate wardrobe? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Go through your wardrobe and find some things you can give away, including some nice things. Do it!

Do you have (or have you had) a companion animal that brings comfort and joy into your life? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Do you know you can donate stuffed animals to many charities? Do it!

Can you remember a moment when you experienced God's presence? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Can you think of something you can do to open your heart to God's presence? Do it!

Can you think of a moment that made you cry in happiness? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Can you re-create this moment in your mind or share this moment with someone? Think of it as a gift to yourself. Do it!

Do you have a favorite food? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. Can you donate this item (or many of this item) to a food pantry? Do it!

Get together ten bills that you can afford to give away. They can be singles, fives, tens, twenties, or a mixture. Offer a prayer of gratitude for this abundance. Give the bills away, preferably one at a time and face to face, as fast as you can. Tips, gifts, donations are all in play.

“Seeds”

Think of a book/movie/television program

Set a good example for you

A special place

Good food

Table fellowship

Music

Singing

Liberty

Do you have safe housing? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Good health

Life!

Congregation

Vocation