

Together We Shine

First Congregational Church 2024 Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Dear FCC Family,

As we enter into our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, we ask you to consider your financial commitment to First Congregational Church of Walla Walla.

A place that welcomes *everyone*.

A safe place to gather and grow in our relationship to God, our world, and each other.

A place where theology evolves with present day issues.

A place where people are fed physically and spiritually.

A place where I find connection and purpose.

A bright light of love and inclusion.

These were some of the responses we received when we asked members at our leadership retreat to reflect on why it matters that First Congregational Church exists in Walla Walla and why they choose to be a part of FCC. I think those answers reflect well the life and ministry of our congregation – creative and meaningful worship, faith formation programs where questions are welcome, a community that cares deeply for one another and those pushed to the margins, and a deep commitment to a more just and loving world. Our 2024 giving goal of \$170,000 will directly fund the ministry of our church. All these things are only possible because we all (members, friends and staff) bring our time, talent and treasure together with the collective purpose of living out our faith. Each of us contains a powerful light and those lights shine brighter when we bring them together. It matters that FCC exists in Walla Walla *AND* it matters that you're a part of this community.

The time ahead will not be free of challenges for us. Returning to greater use of our building following the pandemic has been joyful, but it's also highlighted the challenge of maintaining our beautiful building in the midst of increasing costs. Our Board of Trustees are hard at work exploring building partnerships and grants that will help us continue our ministry in this place and community. But we also need your help in this goal.

During last year's Stewardship Campaign, about half of our community made a financial pledge. While we value all the financial support that is provided, pledged and unpledged, it would be amazing to see this number increase. Making a financial pledge is essential in order for us to plan well and budget for the year ahead. And it's a way of committing to the ministry that happens here. It's a way of saying, "I believe it matters that we live out this faithful call together. Count me in!"

You'll find a pledge card enclosed, which you can return in an offering plate or to the church office at 73 S. Palouse St. You can also complete a digital pledge card online at our website www.firstchurchww.org. In order to plan for the coming year, we ask you to submit your pledge by Nov. 19th. Thank you for prayerfully considering your financial pledge and for continuing to shine your light in our congregation.

With gratitude and love,

Jill Juers, Moderator