

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2019-2020

Walking Together in Faith, Hope & Love

Supporting the ministries and missions of
First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington

Dear Members and Friends,

Faith, hope, love, peace. Which one comes first? Can you think of a time when someone's love for you renewed your hope or faith and brought you to a more peaceful place? Or, perhaps you shared your faith in another's abilities and saw them gradually regain hope to the point they could once again love themselves. Sound a little dramatic? Maybe, but that is the wonder and awe of the love God shares with us all the time. It's a bit like a circle with no beginning or end which you can enter at any point and travel either way.

Our vision for the coming year is to provide many opportunities to experience this circle of God's love. Whether we are at a dinner, book group, summer Bible camp, worship experience, on a mission trip, or volunteering in faith formation opportunities we should focus on how a particular activity enables the participants to experience this circle of love, always looking for ways to invite our community neighbors to join us. This is church.

To support us in this awesome work we need our beautiful building, lawn, and gardens. We need our minister and staff who support us in so many ways. We have a budget of \$586,000 and 80% of that amount must come from our pledges. As we prayerfully consider how much to pledge this year let us think about how this sharing of our wealth is part of the circle of love.

In response to our request for stories about walking together in faith, hope, and love we received the following from Susan Saunders:

I cannot, at the moment, think of a specific incident in church that changed me. Rather, it is the entire length of my life's road in this place - this community - in combination with my parents' teachings that molded me. Eight years ago, as I entered retirement, I feared I would not be able to continue my level of giving to the church. To my surprise, I have been able to increase it. I no longer need things that I once thought necessary. I feel the joy of sharing what I have with others and in support of this community and its works. Perhaps I have reached a deeper understanding of how Jesus wishes us to be. I am eager to continue down this road.

The Stewardship Team

Cyndy Hall-Chair, Tony Hall, Janice Claypool and Eric Davis