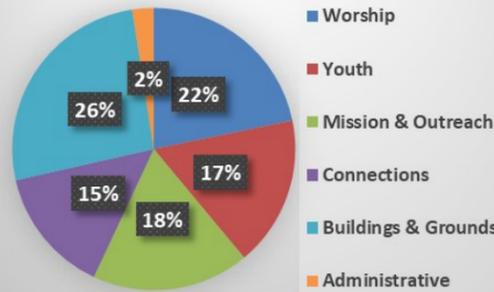
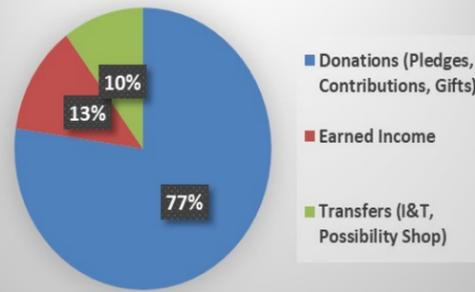


# FCC 2020 Budget

## Planned Expenses



## Planned Income



EXPENSES	INCOME
Worship \$88,294	Donations \$313,410
Youth \$69,850	Earned Income \$51,000
Mssn & Outrch \$72,998	Transfers \$41,433
Connections \$58,811	<b>Total Income</b> \$405,843
Bldng & Grnds \$106,015	<b>Total Expenses</b> \$405,843
Administrative \$9,875	<b>In-Kind Gifts</b> \$135,000+

### A Message from the Stewardship Committee about the Campaign



Steve Hyde, Chair.

The 2020 stewardship campaign has identified four core components of our faith life together that are as true about FCC today as they were 25, 50 or 100 years ago. They are the promise that was passed on to us, and it is up to us to keep it vibrantly alive, for all, today and all the tomorrows to come. Your generous gifts are needed to do just that. The Budget Task Group has established an ambitious stewardship goal of \$313,410 for this campaign. It is important to note that the Board of Trustees voted to change our fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. Consequently, this campaign is for the eight months of May through December 2020. It will be followed by another campaign starting in the Fall for our new fiscal year, January 2021 through December 2021.

### Tithing Amounts by Annual Salary and Percentage

Annual Salary	Cumulative Tithe (5/1/20 - 12/31/20)				
	1%	3%	5%	8%	10%
\$10,000	\$67	\$200	\$333	\$533	\$667
\$15,000	\$100	\$300	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
\$20,000	\$133	\$400	\$667	\$1,067	\$1,333
\$30,000	\$200	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$2,000
\$45,000	\$300	\$900	\$1,500	\$2,400	\$3,000
\$60,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$3,200	\$4,000
\$75,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$5,000
\$90,000	\$600	\$1,800	\$3,000	\$4,800	\$6,000
\$105,000	\$700	\$2,100	\$3,500	\$5,600	\$7,000
\$120,000	\$800	\$2,400	\$4,000	\$6,400	\$8,000

### Last Year's Pledge Information

(5/1/2019—4/30/20)

Number of Pledges	Donation Range
42	\$1 - \$999
44	\$1,000 - \$2,499
38	\$2,500 - \$4,999
14	\$5,000 - \$9,999
4	\$10,000+
Lowest Pledge	Highest Pledge
\$5	\$13,200

### Tax-Free Gift Option: IRA Charitable Rollover

Make a Tax-Free Gift with an IRA: If you're 70½ years old or older you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit First Church and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as ours without having to pay income taxes on the money. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

#### Why Consider this Gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today to help us accomplish our ministries, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- If you are at least 72 years old and have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of your Social Security income that is subject to tax.

Note: It is wise to consult with your tax professionals if you are contemplating a charitable gift. Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor. The above is for informational purposes only and should not be considered an individualized recommendation or personalized investment advice.

~Tony Hall, FCC Investments & Trusts Task Group.

# Stewardship Campaign 2020: Celebrating the Promise from Past to Present



### Our History—200+ years and counting! (Selected Highlights)

1805: The covenant establishing what would become the First Calvinistic Congregational Church (FCCC) is signed.

1812: Our first church building, the White Church, is built.

1841: The White Church is destroyed by an act of arson.

1842: The current church building is erected on S. Winooski Ave.

1885: The FCCC changes its name to First Church (FC).

1901: The church begins listing the Rev. William Hazen as its missionary to India.

1918: The chapel is temporarily converted into an infirmary because of the flu pandemic.

1948: The FC changes its name to the First Congregational Church (FCC).

1952: The Estey Pipe organ is installed.

1957: The church joins the United Church of Christ.

1996: The church begins supporting India's James Hospital.

2000: The church performs Vermont's first civil union ceremony.

2005: The church celebrates its bicentennial.

Dear Friends,

This is, perhaps, the easiest Stewardship letter I have ever had to write. I don't need to say anything fancy. I don't need to tell you that

Jesus talks about money more than anything else. I don't need to remind you why the church is essential in times like these. I just need to tell you to look around at the four walls of your house. Look out the window at the empty streets. Look at the news and see the vast disparities this virus is revealing. Look inside at your own need for connection and spiritual depth.

I'm sure what you'll find is that the message of Jesus has never been more essential in our lifetimes. Bodies matter. The most vulnerable matter. Creation matters. Community matters. Giving to others is essential for our own well-being. Having rich inner resources is vital. God is with you in the suffering, and God is with us when we work to overcome it.

This is what we do at First Church. As you will see on the pages that follow, our life together is designed to spiritually center our lives in ways that allow us to go forth and serve the world. In rich and meaningful worship, in caring for one another, in the extraordinarily generous program of in-kind giving and missional service, and in ensuring the next generations have what they need to value service and sacrifice, we are uniquely poised to meet the acute needs of the world – needs that are growing even as I type. The time of First Church is now.

Nevertheless, I also want to be clear that this could easily be the most difficult Stewardship season in a generation. We have put together a tight, purpose-driven budget for the rest of this calendar year. Yet, I know many of us have lost our jobs, or are suffering from financial insecurity in ways that are entirely new to us. To you, I want to say – *we have got you. We are here for you.* But in order to do so, in order for those statements to be true, the rest of us must pitch-in and be church like we never have before. If you are one of the lucky ones who finds themselves emerging only slightly scathed from the developing financial crisis, we need you now more than ever.

In this booklet, you will find resources on how to think about your giving. The Bible asks us to think about all our assets (financial and time) in terms of a tithe – meaning we should be giving away at least 10% of ourselves. Personally, each time I have inched my financial giving closer to that 10% mark, the easier it has gotten. As a species, it seems to me we function better when our hands are open. All of this is to say, however, that your individual gift to our communal ministries in this time must be prayerful. It must take into consideration what your own needs are, what resources are available to you, and how you can best use them to bring about the Kingdom of God.

Because, friends, Church was made *for this*. The time to be church is now. We need each other, & we need you. Now more than ever it is clear that whatever we do we must do it together. And for that reason I am grateful to be serving with you.

~In faith, *Elissa* The Rev. Elissa Johnk

P.S. Bring your ribbon to online Easter Sunday worship!



First Congregational Church, Yesterday and Today.

# Worship



The Congregation at Worship, 1930s.

## How Important is Worship to You?

“Often I think the sermon was meant for me. Thoughtful presentations help me grow.” ~*Caroline Edmunds*

“Sunday sermons are rich as I take them home in my heart and reflect upon them throughout the week. I feel incomplete unless I begin my week with one. My involvement with First Church has helped me to answer a critical question: What have I done with what I’ve been given? In a world that needs to be transformed in so many ways, how am I transforming myself through my own choices? In short, the church has helped me to reflect on life’s big questions.” ~*Michael Samara*

“I see God in poetry and music that sometimes cracks my heart open and fills me with light.” ~*Anonymous*



The Congregation at Worship, Present Day.

## How Do We Worship?

- Through ministry 52 weeks a year.
- In music with the Youth, Children’s, Sanctuary, & Bell Choirs.
- By celebrating together on Jazz Sunday & other special services.
- In Christmas Eve & Easter worship.
- & Much, Much More!



4th Sunday Advent, Combined Choirs.

## Worship—Expenses

Estimated Cost
\$88,294
% of Budget
22%

# Mission & Outreach

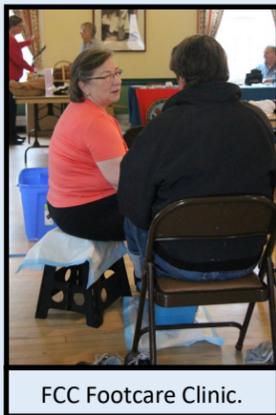
Thanks to your support and the support of those who came before us, First Congregational Church continues to keep its commitment to care for the church, the community, and the world. What does this promise mean to you?

“I saw God when meeting a refugee family at the airport to give them a ride to their new home. We couldn’t communicate, and I prayed so much to get God’s help for us to understand each other.” ~*Carol Tandy*

“First Church has provided paths for me to serve the needs of the less fortunate in our community. Our small congregation continues to provide a wide safety net through the dedicated involvement of so many members. Increasingly, our immediate neighbors need our support.” ~*Al Weldon*

## In-Kind Gifts

FCC generously gifts use of space to many worthwhile organizations such as JUMP, Small Potatoes, and Alcoholics Anonymous every year, saving them 1000s of dollars.



FCC Footcare Clinic.



Puerto Rico Roof Repair.

## A few of our many missions:

- The Possibility Shop
- Ronald McDonald House
- Joint Urban Ministry Project
- The James Hospital in India
- Meals on Wheels
- Free Legal Clinics
- Small Potatoes
- Dismas House
- Share Christmas

## Mission & Outreach—Expenses

Estimated Cost	% of Budget
\$72,998	18%

## In-Kind Gifts

Estimated
\$135,000+

# Youth

And Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” Matthew 19:14

## Where Do You See God?

“I see God in the Youth services. Three years ago the Youth service compelled my wife Michelle to seek a time and place for youth to lead and present. This led to 3,000 people gathering in Montpelier for a youth-led march and presentation.” ~*Rob Backus*

“In our family’s search for a church home in Burlington we brought our 2-year-old to the nursery staffed by Guy and Carol with a guitar and big smiles in the space that is now the downstairs kitchen. Emma was happy; we were happy. And when we asked Bob Lee to baptize her some months later, he graciously obliged her request for ‘more water’. Real people; real love.” ~*Ana Ruesink*

“Witnessing the journey from simple second grade activities to youth services and witnesses.” ~*Bobbi Holzel*



Children’s Choir, 1950s.



Youth in D.C.—March for Our Lives.

## How Are We Nurturing the Next Generation?

- Church School and Youth Groups
- Youth Service Trips
- Peace Camp
- Rite of Confirmation
- Word of God for All Ages
- Children & Youth Choirs
- Faith Formation Team
- And far, far more!

## Youth—Expenses

Estimated Cost
\$69,850
% of Budget
17%



Peace Camp—Children at Play.

# Connections

Connecting with each other as a community of faith has been at the heart of this church since its founding days when fourteen women and men signed our original Confession and Covenant in 1805. Through guest speakers, adult and youth education, mission projects, book clubs, social get-togethers, faith formation workshops, and many other events and activities we have drawn closer together as a church community, to each other and to the word of God.

## How have these connections touched your life?

## Voices of the Congregation

“First Church means the world to me. I treasure my friendships and the love I have for First Church, and I talk highly of my church family daily.” ~*Ann Cerrato*

“Participating as a member of the Pastoral Care Team—extending love and compassionate action to folks in their time of need—has gifted me with meaning and a sense of purpose in the autumn years of my life.” ~*Judy Gray*



A Community of Faith—Advent Worship 2019.

## Connections—Expenses

Estimated Cost	% of Budget
\$58,811	15%

## Connections at a Glance

- Fellowship Hour
- Pick-A-Party
- Partners in Pastoral Care
- Women’s Book Group
- Men’s Breakfast
- Seasonal Clean-Up Workdays
- Quilting & Knitting Groups
- Fellowship Groups