

October 2022

Dear Friends,

***The sale of the church parsonage to the Ronald McDonald House is completed!***

The Ronald McDonald House has rented our historic parsonage for one dollar a year since 1984! During those years, the RMHC has fulfilled a vital mission with grace, hospitality and creativity; has made wonderful improvements to the property; and has been both a good neighbor and a site for meaningful voluntarism for many from First Church.

After several years of study and negotiating, our congregation voted, in June 2020, to sell the church parsonage to the Ronald McDonald House for \$1.9 million. The RMH was given two years to raise the needed funds, which they did this past spring. It then took time to complete required City and State permits and documents - thank you to Doug Viehmann for his key assistance with this process!

On October 6th, the church officially closed on the sale, and we are in receipt of the agreed upon funds. In planning for this time, last year the congregation voted to hold the funds from the sale of the parsonage until the Visioning Process is complete. The funds are being managed by our faithful Investments & Trusts Team.

The parsonage sale furthers the important mission of the Ronald McDonald House to be a welcoming home for families and their children facing critical health needs, as well as our work as a church seeking to put our faith into action for many years to come. Thank you to all as we embark on this important new era for First Church.

- Amy Mellencamp, Chair, Parsonage Study Group



***A "thank you" this past week from the RMH & RMH Guests:***

- *Thank you to First Congregational Church of Burlington for their partnership over the last 38 years in renting the house (\$1 per year!) to our us in supporting our mission. A BIG thank you for the sale of the house to us making it our forever home for families!*
- *18 years ago, not only was RMH there for us, but the body of First Congregational Church was too. We are so grateful for both and so are our twins – now seniors in high school. Thank you for being an amazing team that helped hundreds of families like ours!*
- *Thank you so much. This house helped me in 2003 with my 1<sup>st</sup> son and in 2017 with my 2<sup>nd</sup> son. I'll forever donate to this charity. Words can't express the gratitude to the First Congregational Church UCC... twice I found myself in need and twice the Ronald McDonald House was a saving grace in a time of need. Thank you for the generosity as well as the message, there is always something higher looking out for us. 🙏 Thank you.*

