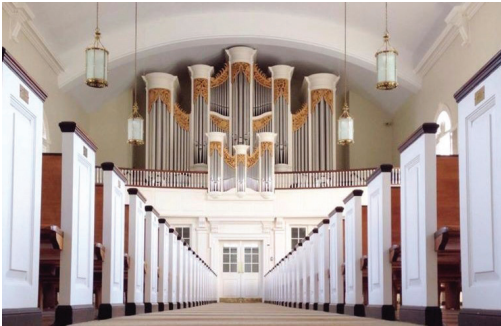


# A Note From The Stewardship Committee

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Greetings,

Our Stewardship theme this year, “Steps of Faith”, is a reflection on the journey that we find ourselves in as a congregation. Through worship we follow the Israelites in their journey through the wilderness and across the Jordan to the promised land, through our own experiences we trust in God to lead us on our journey to the next chapter in the life of our church.



To be sure, we find ourselves at a place in between; between the past and future, between traditional and hybrid worship, between ministers. We are on the precipice of something new, which can be uncomfortable, but it can also be rejuvenating. And maybe it’s just the right place for us to be.

We are heartened to see the strength and resiliency of this congregation. Despite fundamental shifts in the way that people engage with church, and the significant changes we have weathered over the past four years, we remain a strong and vibrant community of faith.

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill is so much more than just the physical edifice of a church, or the contributions of an individual minister; our congregation is the livelihood of our church and our mission. It is the strength of our relationships and our commitments to one another that carry us forward and keep us true.

*For where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be also.*  
*Matthew 6:21*

In the midst of this change, we invite you to partake in this journey with us and celebrate it for what it is – a journey to someplace new. We hope that you’ll join us this Stewardship season not just in the financial commitment of a pledge, but in an emotional commitment to the future of this church. We’re asking you to own this journey with us, and let your pledge be a symbol of that commitment.



Your Session, Deacons, and the various Committees are all hard at work crafting the next chapter of our history and committed to the vitality of our church. Now is the time for us to commit ourselves to the future of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. Now is the time we take that next step of faith.

Join us this coming Commitment Sunday, November 19th, to make your pledge and contribute to our future.

If you have pledged in the past, thank you. Please pledge again and consider increasing your pledge by 1% of your household income, or more. And if you have not pledged recently, please do so this year. It is important that all of us participate to the extent that we are able.

There are three ways to make your pledge:

- Bring your pledge card to church on Commitment Sunday, November 19.
- Mail your pledge card to the church with the provided envelope.
- Email a confidential pledge to our church administrator, Rachel Cline, at [rcline@chestnuthillpres.org](mailto:rcline@chestnuthillpres.org)

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, thank you for your commitment to our future together and the support of the ministry that we share.

Your Stewardship Committee: Craig Barnes, Mark Bernstein, Matt Eastman, Laurie Menyo, Jim Lutz, Taylor Slaughter, Rebecca Thornburgh



## 2024 Stewardship Campaign

### Our Congregational Response

	Total Pledges	No. Pledges
2020	\$561,909	143
2021	\$536,754	138
2022	\$517,399	127
2023	\$534,131	138

As with any business, we manage our budget against the conditions of the economy at large. Over the past few years, inflation has significantly eroded what our annual budget can accomplish.

Our total pledges for the 2020 fiscal year, the last campaign before the pandemic, amounted to \$561,909. With inflation, the buying power of those pledges in today's dollars is only \$484,218. In order to achieve the same buying power, we need approximately \$665,000; by contrast, last year's pledges totaled \$534,131.

While we hover around the same total pledge commitment, what we can effectively do with those dollars diminishes each year.

### Our Current Budget

Personnel	\$577,744	57.1%
Worship	\$3,500	0.3%
Music & Arts	\$20,434	2.0%
Church Life	\$10,200	1.0%
Christian Education	\$16,950	1.7%
Administration	\$104,500	10.3%
Building & Grounds	\$204,570	20.2%
Benevolence	\$73,520	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,011,418</b>	

We are at a moment of inflection - the decisions we make during this interim period shape the future of our church. What we give today determines what our ministry looks like as we lay the groundwork for tomorrow, from the quantity of pastors and associate pastors to our mission and outreach.

To date, we have been able to meet our budget because of cost reductions in personnel and some increases in building use, but this is not an appropriate long term strategy as it does not allow us to expand our ministry beyond where we are today. As a Stewardship Committee we aspire to grow, not just maintain the status quo, and we think you would agree.

If every pledging household increased by just \$20 per week, we would be able to completely offset that loss in purchasing power. Yet our goal is not to reach a specific dollar value.

***We want everyone to invest in the church.***

We put our heart where our treasure is – Where do you currently place your commitment, and how does that reflect what you value most? We're hoping you will agree that an investment in the growth of PCCH is worth your time and treasure, and that your step of faith will be a step up in commitment.

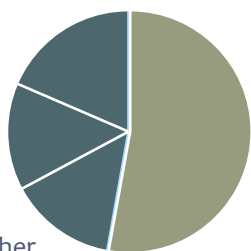
We encourage everyone to give the amount to which they are capable, not just the amount you may think we need. Our ministry and our mission does not have a ceiling, and the greater your commitment the more we can achieve.

***Join us on the journey.***

17.9%  
Plate Offerings

14.9%  
Endowment

14.4%  
Building Use/Other



52.8%  
Pledges

### Our Sources of Income

#### Why Pledge?

Giving in any capacity is always appreciated, but your pledge serves a very specific purpose. A pledge commitment forms the foundation of our annual operating budget and helps us to plan our programs accordingly. While plate offerings contribute to the bottom line, they are harder to predict.