



## The Congregational Church of Vergennes

30 South Water St., Vergennes, VT 05491 802-877-2435 Rev. Elliott J. Munn, Pastor

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

### *Continue the Momentum*

Dear Church,

October 25, 2021

As we draw near to the end of what has been a year of transition, our congregation has a lot to celebrate. We moved from Zoom and parking lot services to meeting, once again, in our beloved building. As we adjusted and readjusted to the latest COVID freedoms and restrictions, the active life of our church continued to flourish and grow. Quiet mission work for our local community was accomplished on a daily basis, and volunteers kept the food shelf active and open. We thanked our outgoing youth educator, welcomed a new one, and we learned from one another in book discussion groups. Babies were born and we bid farewell to loved ones. Prayers of comfort and joy went out each week supporting our congregation, our local community and those in the larger world. Our relationships to the church and to each other sustained us, as did the music that flowed regardless of where we met.

Your strong support and generosity made the momentum of our work as a church possible this year. As we approach a new year, we ask each of you to help **continue the momentum** of giving so that our work together can continue. This year's budget is \$215,000 and approximately two thirds of our current income come from pledges. The enclosed brochure shows a general breakdown of estimated budget revenue sources for 2022. Next year Trustees project total expenses to reach \$232,000. Pledges increased significantly in 2021. To finance expenses in 2022 we need to continue that trend.

- 2021 pledges were up almost 10% over 2020 (\$123,856 to \$135,400.)
- The number of pledges increased from 49 to 57 (a bit more than 15%.)
- **Pledge goal for 2022 is \$153,400** (13% increase over last year's \$135,400.)

This year Elliott asked the Stewardship Committee to individually consider our thoughts and feelings as we pledge. Why do we give, what are the needs we want to meet, how much do we want to give, why that amount? We discovered that we often don't put a great deal of thought into pledging. We also discovered that going through that process can make the act of pledging more meaningful. Many of you may already do this, but if not, we encourage you to give yourself time to connect more directly with your own giving. We look forward to presenting more about the process of pledging during stewardship moments on October 31, November 7 and 14, to Celebration Sunday on November 21 and to a meaningful stewardship season.

Faithfully,

VCC Stewardship Committee-

Janet Gibbs, Jeremy Ouimette, Jane Spencer, Rich Strum