



One of the beautiful truths of Christian faith is: "We are a community of faith." We are not merely individuals living side-by-side. We are united as "the body of Christ." Our strength and our hope is found and bound together with others. While we experience faith as an individual journey with God, it finds its meaning and purpose in community.

Our support of the mission and ministry of The First Congregational Church, UCC, Columbus, is only as good and strong and prosperous as it can be when we do it together. We have chosen "TOGETHER" as our 2010 Stewardship theme because we know in these challenging and difficult times, we will thrive only when we stand, pray, praise, worship, serve, and give - TOGETHER.

I encourage you to give generously to our 2010 Stewardship Effort. Together, we will overcome the challenges of this present time and become greater servants of Christ.

Together in God's love,
Reverend Tim Ahrens, Senior Minister

OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We, the members of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, believe the following statement represents our commitment and desire to reach out and welcome those in need of and searching for God's love:

We believe we are all created in God's image, female and male, and we are called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us in our common journey. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and political and theological backgrounds.

Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8)

This statement was adopted by the congregation September 8, 2002.



TOGETHER

2009
STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN

Dedication Sunday : Nov 8, 2009

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



OUR LEGACY TOGETHER

When forty-two abolitionist Christians stepped forward to form our congregation in 1852, God created a unique community of faith in the heart of Ohio's capital city. Fighting the oppression of slavery while standing firm on the divine promises of God, this mighty band of believers became witnesses to God's light. Through the generations our church has led on issues of racial equality, peace, women's rights, civil rights and equal rights for people of all sexual orientations. In all times, uncertain or not, we have been a beacon of light.

Together we move forward in ministries of worship, mission, education and music. We are members old and young, healthy and infirm, prosperous and in need – but all blessed by the strengths, resources and talents given to us by our creator. We now step forward, together, to share those gifts in a united journey of stewardship.

From him the whole body, joined and held together... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:15-17

Clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
Colossians 3:14

Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.
Psalms 34:3

All the believers were *one in heart and mind*. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.
Acts 4:32

HOW TO MAKE A PLEDGE

Every stewardship pledge for 2010 is vital to the mission and services of our church.

All members will receive information and a letter of intent, which can be mailed back to the church. Those who prefer to pledge online may submit a form on the church's confidential web site: www.first-church.org. (Click on Stewardship and Pledging.)

We hope to have as many pledges as possible submitted by November 8, 2009, when we will celebrate those gifts during Stewardship Sunday.

May we prayerfully consider our gifts, may God guide each of us in pledging and may we all work joyfully together in the days to come.

Questions?

Please call or e-mail Sharon Leidheiser
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