



*and do the same.*

Luke 10:37

October, 2016

Our 2017 stewardship theme, *Go and Do the Same*, is a call to discipleship, to be more like the image of Jesus, so that our faith may be seen in our actions toward others. We could say that our “job” as a Christian is to do for others the way that the “good” Samaritan did for the man who fell among robbers. Be kind, compassionate, generous, and concerned for others in need. Give of yourself. **Make a difference.**



At the Monroe Congregational Church, we see God’s purpose at work in individuals and the community as a whole. *The world is broken and hurting and we are called to be a movement for wholeness among its many fractured pieces.* Faithful financial stewardship is one way we work together to change the world, because our generosity funds the mission and ministries that help people live their faith.

On **Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** we begin a four-week stewardship campaign, complete with testimonials and messages of hope in worship. On the first Sunday of Advent, **November 27<sup>th</sup>**, we celebrate **Commitment Sunday** with a pancake breakfast after worship. We hope you will be intentional about being with us, not simply to offer your pledge card, but to encourage your community as we move forward together in faith and discipleship.



God has done, and continues to do remarkable things through the Monroe Congregational Church – things that matter! **Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us get to the next level of discipleship.** When the early church gathered, they did so with glad and generous hearts and that there was no need among them (Acts 2). We want that same spirit of community to be among us too. We look forward to considering with you what it means for us to “*go and do the same,*” as we seek to be faithful disciples.

Blessings, *Your Stewardship Committee: Scott Young, Roy Nealon and John O’Rourke (Receiver)*



## Some Frequently Asked Questions about Financial Giving at MCC



**What is a “Stewardship” Campaign?** The ebb and flow of money has a significant influence on a congregation’s health, vitality, sense of worth and confidence as we look towards achieving what God is calling us to do. The ministries of our church are supported by the generous contributions of our members and friends. During our annual Stewardship Campaign we encourage our members and friends to re-commit financially to the church so that we can continue serve our neighbors, grow in faith, support our staff and care for our campus.

**What is a “Pledge”?** Making and keeping promises is an important part of faith. Having an idea of what income we receive helps our church leaders plan future programs and answer ministry needs. A pledge is simply a promise to financially support the needs of the church through regular giving.

**How can I make a pledge?** Come to worship and submit the enclosed pledge card to the offering plate in person. Or, you may choose to return it by mail or in person to the church office (MCC, 34 Church Street, Monroe, CT 06468 Attn: Stewardship). Then join us for a Commitment Sunday Pancake Breakfast in Wilton Hall after service on **November 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**How much should I pledge?** We estimate that MCC will need 120 pledges at an average of \$43 per week, or \$2,236 per year to meet our 2017 budget needs. Consider your own financial situation in deciding how much you or your family should pledge. Some will be able to give more; others, on limited incomes or with outside commitments, may give less.

Think about the lives that are changed at MCC every week. Now consider the many ways all those inspiring folks go and serve their neighbors, our community, the greater Bridgeport region, and the world. your financial gifts help us do tremendous things together.



**Is my pledge tax-deductible?** Yes! At the end of the year you receive a giving statement that you can use when itemizing deductions on your tax return.

### How do I pay my pledge?

- √ Give a regular cash payment or personal check in a giving envelope during worship
- √ On-line through your bank
- √ Schedule an authorized automatic transfer of funds from your checking or savings
- √ Give stock certificates or bonds
- √ Go to our church’s website ([www.mcc-ucc.org](http://www.mcc-ucc.org)) and click on the “Donate Now” button to set up one time or recurring payments



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