



The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC

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Dear Church,

No, it is not the norm for our congregation to carry out the annual Stewardship Campaign alongside a Capital Campaign. To my knowledge, it has happened only once here in the past 236 years\*. But this year—this October—*it's happening!* Capital Campaign 2026 will run concurrently with our annual Stewardship Campaign for 2027.

Both are important.

As we approach the starting line, I am glad to introduce you to these campaigns. And I want to encourage you to read the enclosed materials. Both the Stewardship booklet and the Capital Campaign brochure tell stories well worth our hearing.

### **Stewardship Campaign**

Our 350-member church has an Operating Budget of \$762,552 (2026). To say the least, each pledge matters. 93% of our church's annual budget comes from us, the members and friends of MiddUCC. These funds support our worship life, educational programming, and outreach. Our pledged contributions also enable us to be good stewards of our buildings.

Our 2027 Stewardship goal is **\$533,000**, a 3% increase over 2026.

Whether you are pledging for the first time or continuing your financial support of our congregation, please know how much I appreciate your support. And, of course, if you are unable to make a pledge at this time, I want to thank you in advance for bringing your heart, mind, and time to the ministries we share.

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\* The dual campaigns of 2013 went well: we surpassed our annual stewardship goal, *and* we harvested an abundance of generosity to fund the church's addition. Thanks be to God!

## **Capital Campaign 2026**

The replacement of a 100-year-old slate roof on our Meeting House is underway. The “roof project,” approved by the congregation, represents a major commitment to the well-being of our historic church building. It also signifies a gift given to all who will gather under our roof—in our lifetimes and for generations to come.

Of course, there is a debt to pay for a new roof, and when it comes to the Meeting House roof, the debt is \$555,000.

Paying for the new roof is the main thing of this campaign. But it isn’t the only thing. Through this campaign, we also hope to retire two, much smaller debts and to complete lease payments on the addition’s solar panels. To take these steps would provide needed relief to our annual operating budget. Retiring these debts—collectively, about \$120,000—would reduce the church’s expenses by over \$25,000 a year, starting as soon as next year.

The goal for Capital Campaign 2026 is **\$675,000**. These pledges may be met over a **three-year period** (four-tax years). We hope to receive pledges to Capital Campaign 2026 and the 2027 Stewardship Campaign starting now.

With these materials in hand, I want to thank my hardworking teammates behind these campaigns. Thank you, Stewardship Committee: Michele Brown, Erika Garner, Rev. Elizabeth Gleich, Sally Holland, Leanna Maglienti (*ex-officio*), and Ian Phair. And thank you, Capital Campaign Committee: Churchill Franklin (*co-chair*), Erika Garner (*co-chair*), John Emerson, Leanna Maglienti (*ex-officio*), Michelle Nelson, and Alyssa Sinclair. Many thanks!

I am grateful for the gifts each of you brings to this group project of *being church*. Thank you, all, for your generosity of spirit.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Andy Nagy-Benson