

October 19, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Autumn has arrived! Harvests are plentiful. Farm stands are bursting with colorful fall produce. We are living in a Season of Thanksgiving! God has provided well for us. We here at The Congregational Church of Westborough (CCW) always have plenty to be thankful for!

Recently, I was asked why I chose to come to this church as pastor. While many things caught my attention when I met with the search committee, there is one primary reason I wanted to pastor this congregation: CCW is actively involved in so many mission ministries, more than any other church I know. Small groups build with Habitat, cook meals for Dismas House, chaperone at the Worcester IHN shelter, knit prayer shawls, and care for our elderly members. Women's Fellowship and Men's Club support ministries like Abby's House, providing for refugees and the food-insecure. We have whole-church projects involving Christian Ed like the Great Pie Challenge and meal-packing for Ukraine. Young, old, and in-between, everyone here is involved in ministry to our community near and far. It's truly amazing.

People in this Congregation really understand what Jesus asks of his disciples. Praise God! To serve the many and diverse needs - needs that seem to grow by the day - you all give generously of your time, your effort, your talents, your expertise; but as you know, this isn't enough; in addition to your work, money is needed to keep the wheels in motion.

If we are to continue the essential work of our ministry, the element that sets us apart and defines us as a congregation, we need ongoing financial support. So, during this Season of Thanksgiving, I'm asking you as your pastor to discuss this with your family — look at your household budget and assess what you really need and what your church needs. Then, on Stewardship Sunday, make a pledge to support our operating budget and our mission work. The operating budget may not feel like a compelling cause, but without the basics of buildings and staff, our ministry collapses.

Remembering all that God has given you, decide what you can afford to give back. And consider this: that as our wonderful ministry continues, we are helping those most in need, so that they in turn may realize and be thankful for God's providential care in their lives—you see, we have a special role to play in a holy plan! Take pride in supporting our church, which not only serves us, but exists for the good of others and the glory of God as well.

Keep shining bright!

Rev. Betsy