



Dear friends,

Last year, the UCC created a banner that shouted these words: *BE THE CHURCH. Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life. Embrace diversity. Love God.* These words are a fitting summation of who we seek to be at Christ Congregational Church. They describe people who:

celebrate God's presence,
live in creation with respect,
love and serve others,
seek justice and resist evil, and
proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, as our hope.

All you have to do is look around on any Sunday morning to witness the joy and enthusiasm of how we celebrate God's presence as a church family. I am grateful for the time and talent so many of you freely and generously offer. Our mission and vision does not flourish without hands-on nurturing and intention.

What will this mean for us as our ministries grow and our resources are strained? What will this mean for us as our staff is strained and we are in need of more support to assist with the God-sized vision of this congregation? What will it mean as our youth ministry grows? What will it mean as we seize new opportunities to tell our story with those who are newly engaged in works of social justice in our community? What will it mean as we begin to livestream our worship and provide online faith resources for our church and beyond? Will we be people of intention, of action, and of service to our church and the wider community?

To sustain and grow our Church, I invite you to join me in offering your financial support of our ministries. When we give regularly, we make it possible to be the Church through our visible expressions of God's love at work.

I am so grateful for your presence at Christ Congregational Church. I also appreciate your generous financial gifts which further God's mission in our faith community, the wider community, and the United Church of Christ. I ask you to prayerfully recommit yourself and your financial pledge for the coming year as we continue to be the church that we all want to experience.

With thanks and blessings,

Pastor Matt Braddock
Senior Minister