



Avon Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

The Rev. Chris Solimene, Pastor

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“Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Luke 6:38

Greetings in the name of God’s Possibilities!

The above verse may at first glance look more like a recipe than a scriptural truth about being in relationship with others. And honestly, that’s OK. In the same way we require a couple of eggs to bind our baked goods and some dark chocolate morsels (thank you very much) for the best cookies, we require our shared gifts and the investment of our resources to do the most good for the most people in the service of our loving Creator.

Said another way, “Ministry is, first of all, receiving God’s blessing from those to whom we minister. What is this blessing? It is the glimpse of the face of God.” This quote by Henri Nouwen states the reason an annual stewardship of gifts is relevant. The season of gratitude and giving certainly calls us to our center of being – to our blessings and to the One from whom all blessings come.

How we use our money says a lot about what we value. What calls you to Avon Congregational Church?

In what ways is God at work in your life through Avon Congregational Church?

Here is what some of our friends say:

“This is the place where I found my community of fellow Christians. I admire and regularly learn from them as we strive to accomplish God’s plans for us to live in Jesus’ love and acceptance of all. Together, we give praise to Him and find ways to use our personal gifts to reach out locally and globally.” ~Sandy Lytle

“We lived in Granby for 22 years, raised our children there, and were very active in a church. When we moved to Avon in 1998, we wanted to belong to a faith community who’s congregation was trying to do the right thing, welcoming, living a good life and helping their neighbors both locally and worldwide. We also valued music highly and wanted a church who’s congregation did as well. We found that in Avon Congregational Church and are very happy to be members, and feel lucky to be a part of an active ministry which, to be successful, requires all of our support!” ~Norm and Jane Keeney

“I love ACC because it truly embodies what I believe church should be: welcoming, accepting, and genuinely caring. A community where I’m embraced for who I am, can grow to be more than I am, and will be forgiven when I fall short. This community loves freely and extravagantly and shares that love beyond ourselves as well. “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,” and I want to be here too.” ~Peruse Khachoyan

Our giving strengthens and expands the work of this faith community, inviting us to share in a deeper creative energy of love, community building and lasting relationships. Thank you for taking some time to pray about our shared vision, one that nurtures a relationship with the sacred in self, others and creation and that seeks to foster a just and compassionate world. Then, return the attached Pledge Form on or before November 25, for this is our recipe of great promise!! Thanks be to God!!!

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris Solimene

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times,
having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Our Faith Commitment For 2019

Sharing Our Resources for God's Work at Avon Congregational Church

**Members and Friends, Please complete this form and place in the offering plates by
Sunday, November 25, 2018. Thank you!**

Name & Address for Church Directory Update

(Information will be included unless otherwise notified)

Names(s): _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Preferred e-mail addresses: _____

Phone #: Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Sharing Resources

With Faith in God to provide, and trusting in God's enabling power, I/We make the following faith-promise
of giving to Avon Congregational Church for this year:

\$ _____ Weekly x 52 for a total of \$ _____ annually, or

\$ _____ Monthly x 12 for a total of \$ _____ annually, or

\$ _____ Quarterly x 4 for a total of \$ _____ annually, or

\$ _____ Semi-Annually x 2 for a total of \$ _____ annually, or

One payment of \$ _____ annually

Check here if you would like offering envelopes

Check here if you would like information on leaving a long-term gift to the church.

Signature(s): _____

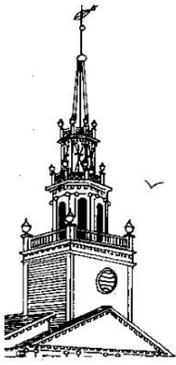
If need be, please mail to: 6 West Main Street Avon, CT 06001

*****Tear off here and keep for your records*****

2019 Avon Congregational Church Pledge Record

I/We have made the following pledge: \$ _____ annually

Thank you very much for your pledge!



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February 6, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Avon Congregational Church,

Giving people give. That is a fact. The people of Avon Congregational Church exemplify what it means to be the church, giving financial resources, time and unique individual gifts toward the realization of our vision and mission. Your witness to being a united and uniting church has empowered our ministries to feed the hungry, speak up for the marginalized, clothe the destitute and welcome the stranger.

I want to begin by simply saying thank you. Your leadership in generosity contributes to the long standing success of our community of faith (celebrating 200 years THIS September). Because of your commitment to the ministry of this congregation, we are an ever increasing effective witness to realizing God's desires for this world. You know what matters in life, and through your giving, you are sharing that with others and reaching them with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

It was wisely stated at our annual congregational budget meeting on February 3rd, that the success of us meeting our goals is not only having dynamic leadership, purpose and a plan, but also a *culture tied to the purpose*. This means we need all members to embrace and work towards realizing our church's goals for our future. Here are some basic facts:

- ❖ The total budget for 2019 is 230K (The transparent details are available to all members at any time).
- ❖ A healthy congregation shares the financial burden by paying 80% through pledges and 20% through fundraising, rental income and investments. We're a church, not a fundraising organization.
- ❖ 80% of our budget is 184K. Our pledging received to date is 112K.
- ❖ Avon Congregational Church has no endowments on which to draw.

Instead of having a large endowment and a crumbling infrastructure like many historic churches, we are blessed with a spectacular facility and a Meeting House needing some TLC, but no mortgages or loans. Our shared responsibility matters as does every pledge.

The median pledge amount historically has been about \$2,400 per year or \$50 per week. Eight members are paying a bit more than that, which totals approximately 50% of our pledged amount this far. I'm one of them. The practice of exercising financial stewardship is a spiritual discipline and a way to grow our faith. There is joy to be found in practicing generosity.

If you've prayerfully discerned you are at the maximum level of giving for this year, I thank you for your commitment toward our common goals. If, however, you are able and willing to invest more in the good work we are doing, I encourage you to do so. The chart printed on the backside of this letter can give you an idea of how others practice generosity.

Again, I thank you for your support. Giving in the manner that you do does not simply happen – it is the result of faith, trust, intentional choices, and a life of discipline. I join you in the hope of creating a culture of generosity that touches every person in our church. Giving is where we find the true meaning and purpose for our lives, a discovery the members of Avon Congregational already know well.

In the Name of God, the Provider of Every Blessing,