

October 2022

Dear beloved of Church on the Hill,

I'm writing to ask that you prayerfully and generously estimate what financial support you can contribute to the mission and ministries of Church on the Hill in 2023.



Church
on the Hill

This month, we've been hearing in worship from members about why they support Church on the Hill. Here's some of what we've heard.

- Longtime member Ellen Merritt reflected on the warm welcome the girls she worked with at Valleyhead received when they began attending church here years ago. It touched Ellen to see it, and it led her to join the church and to dedicate much of herself to its success, to mutual benefit, as Jesus promised it would, that you find your life by giving it to others.
- Barbara Sims and Walton Wilson, though recently moved to New Haven, came back and spoke of how crucial Church on the Hill was to the happiness they found in living in Lenox. Though neither were predisposed to church membership, they found an easy and happy church home here, where they came to contribute as much as they received.
- Arthur Oliver spoke of Church on the Hill as a place where true friendship grows, and not just among people similar to one another. He noted that here he's known and judged as beloved of God, true for him and true for all. Here, too, the loving aid he seeks to offer the world finds specific aim in our missions and outreach.

Of course, the meaning and impact of Church on the Hill play out collectively as well as personally. This year, we've enriched our wider community by contributing to the Lenox Food Pantry with food (some grown in our bed of the community garden) and volunteers. We've hosted an open house series through the summer featuring local musicians who amazed with their talents. We've continued to pursue our Master Plan, making the meetinghouse more accessible and useful to our whole community. We've partnered with WAM Theater, who now rents space in the chapel basement and widens our impact with their coupling of arts and activism. Our buildings are busy again, after a fallow two years, busy with community, creativity, and celebration. And—the tower clock is working once again!

Meanwhile, our church book club continues to make us evermore mature disciples of Christ and the Bible study fosters nuanced readings of our sacred texts and a deepening appreciation of the riches of Christianity.

But our work as a church is even more fundamental than all this. We've had a socially traumatic two years, and the fabric of our community has worn thin. As a congregation so long in this place aiming to be the body of Christ, we have a duty, and moreover the capability, to add new threads to this worn fabric, to fill it back out again, thus making the bonds that join us together thick and resilient. Not many organizations are poised to do this quite like the village church, and it's a crucial task. That it is ours to do brings me great joy and fills me with urgent purpose.

Given all this, please prayerfully consider what commitment you can make to our church as a place where God's love is indwelling and outpouring. Find along with this letter the pledge card for filling out, and bring it to the Harvest Lunch on November 6th following worship in the chapel. You could also mail it to the church office at 55 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

Thank you, and thanks be to God.

Yours in service,

John Powell, *Acting Moderator*

Along with the members of the Church Council:

Allegra Chin, *Treasurer*

Amy Chin, *Collector*

Liz Goodman, *Pastor*

Emily Johnson, *Clerk*

Ellen Merritt, *Deacon*

Carol Powell, *Trustee*