

CHURCH PROJECTS

2023 Highlights

- \$38,000 complete remodel of Johnstone Hall, using local contractors.
- \$21,000 new security, fire alarm, and heat control system.
- Commissioned a new Outdoor Mural for our Administrative wing.
- Hired a new Accountant and upgraded our software.
- Hired a Consultant to improve website, newsletter, and other communications.
- Increased giving projects to Covenant to Care.
- Installed Mini Food Pantry.

2024 Plans

- Remodel our third-floor rooms to optimize usable space.
- Complete the Outdoor Mural.
- Re-plant garden.
- Host mid-week mindfulness sessions.
- Partner with Hartford faith-based groups to develop a plan for creating a warming facility and a gathering space for LGBTQIA+ youth and families.
- Install June O'Neil banner collection and other FPC artwork.

GREETINGS, FRIENDS!

How do we -- as individuals, as citizens of this country and world -- maintain our compassion, humility, and connection to one another when the fabric of humanity feels so frayed?

We are in the midst of a tumultuous time in our country and world. As we hold in one hand the challenges of this time, we also hold fast to the commitments of our ministries at FPCH.

Now, more than ever, is the time to ***show up for the work of justice and peace*** in an inter-generational, multi-cultural, justice-seeking setting; to model grace, discipline of practice, and forbearance to our children and young people.

Now is the time to lean into questions of discipleship and

“We are each other’s harvest, we are each other’s business, we are each other’s magnitude and bond.”
~ Gwendolyn Brooks, from her poem “Paul Robeson”



spiritual commitments; to discern what endeavors allow us to best exercise our God-given gifts.

Our phenomenal Session is working together to prepare the 2024 budget, and we invite you to be a contributing member of our church family.

Our church is a place to practice being human in light of our Divine Creator, a place to link arms and pull together in the direction of a just peace; a place to be re-invigorated, to offer a

good word to another, a place to share your gifts and to receive the gift of God’s grace, relentlessly.

Please consider how you will “show up,” sharing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, however you are led to do so. Friends, we are the ones we are waiting for.

In faith and hope,
Pastor Nancy



WHAT SHOULD I GIVE?

- The average American Christian contributes 2.9% of household income to charities.*
- 38 of FPCH's 98 households (39%) turned in a 2023 pledge card.
- Among those who pledged, the amount varies according to what each can give; all contributions make a difference!
- Some households contribute 1-2%, others offer the full tithe of 10%.

**NonProfitSource.org*



We emphasize that every gift helps us to get closer, and every gift represents a commitment to our shared ministry.

Beyond fulfilling our budget, can you imagine what we could accomplish if all 98 households pulled together? Can you imagine what we could accomplish together, what we could be for each other, as we work for God's justice and kin-dom?!

THE NITTY GRITTY

How are we doing, financially?

We receive fewer financial gifts than what we need to cover our annual operating budget. The Session is working to close that gap through the use of endowment funds, building rentals, grants, and community partnerships. However, to achieve sustainability we also hope to see the pledging number come closer to our operating budget.

Though the 2024 budget has not been set, we operate at around \$225,000 per year, and we can cover about three-quarters of that through pledging. Ideally, we would be able to cover our budget fully.



PLEDGE TODAY:



- mail the enclosed card
- scan code
- online: bit.ly/FPC-give



STEWARDSHIP 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Hartford

firstpreshartford.org

STEWARDSHIP 2024

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my/our commitment to First Presbyterian Church of Hartford, I/we offer this Pledge:



First Presbyterian
Church of Hartford

136 Capitol Ave., Hartford CT 06106

Pledge commitment for 2024: \$ per week
 per month
 per year

Name: _____



bit.ly/FPC-give

This Pledge will be paid: during worship services
 online at bit.ly/FPC-give or by scanning the QR code above
 by mail to "First Presbyterian Church of Hartford" at the address above

In addition, I/We have included First Presbyterian Church in my/our will(s).

We strongly encourage you to submit this card by November 19 in worship when we will consecrate our pledges.

If you need to update the contact information we have on file, have questions, or have any news to share, please include that on the back of this card.