

Its Faith Promise Season. It is a time of reflection of what the church means to each of us; a time to reflect on the missions of the church, the fellowship, the community outreach, the faithful community of our congregation and how we choose to support the church financially. Faith Promise is also a time to discern how to support the church in other ways. There are so many aspects of the church to consider: Church Council, assisting with missions, fellowship, worship, building and grounds projects, ushering and greeting, coffee hour refreshments, and more. The doors are open to new opportunities.



In looking back at prior year letters sent out during Faith Promise, I found this segment from the October 2019 letter that still resonates with me: *“During the season of Faith Promise I find myself focusing on how my own spiritual journey has been helped through my membership in this church. I love bible study classes where I am exposed to the perspective of others, allowed to share my own thoughts and learn valuable lessons. I love Sunday church services where I can sit and enjoy insightful sermons, joyful music, the sound of children, and the warmth and love of a faithful community”.*

We have survived a pandemic since that 2019 letter was sent out, and now some normalcy has finally returned in our lives. Last year we struggled with establishing a viable budget for the church, and a need for better communication regarding the Faith Promise process was shared and heard.

What is Faith Promise? The Faith Promise season is a time to prayerfully, joyfully, and graciously discern how to support the financial needs of the church. It is a **faith agreement with God** to be personally involved in ministry of the church, and the amount is determined after earnest prayer. **Faith Promise is not a tithe**; it is an offering of thanks.

How is Faith Promise different this year? Our theme this year is our new “Why” statement: *“To joyfully share in God’s unconditional love, welcoming and accepting each one into a life of inspiration, growth and service.”* You will hear more about this during the October and November church services.

- Faith Promise has had a long history in the church and this way of giving is very important to some people. Please note: the new simplified Faith Promise form provides an option to include your contact information **or** to continue to provide your Faith Promise amount anonymously. For those providing contact information, please note that **only** our Office Administrator will view the information in order to upload the information into the church accounting system. By including your contact information Danny can set up your account and provide detailed quarterly statements. (In 2022, approximately 60% of the Faith Promise forms included contact information.)
- Simplifying the process: We are using a single form this year. ([link to form](#))
 - The forms can be mailed or dropped off at the church. There will be a special box near the door of the church office. Please note Faith Promise on the envelope if mailed.
 - OR you may choose to enter your Faith Promise electronically through the church website. ([link to website](#)) Select “Ways to Give” from the menu bar and Click on Faith Promise to fill out the form and submit. (Please note: this method cannot be used for anonymous giving)
- As in prior years, you can continue to use the Direct Giving option through Vanco, or the Sunday offering plate to submit your actual Faith Promise offerings. After submitting your 2023 Faith Promise amount, please make sure to confirm that the information is current in your Vanco account, or update it as needed. ([link to Vanco](#))

Why is it important to submit your Faith Promise by the goal date of November 20, 2022?

- Without your Faith Promise information, we will struggle again establishing the budget for the church.
- The budget first needs to be established based on the needs of the church, then be approved by the church Budget Committee, the Church Council, and the congregation at the annual meeting. It is a lengthy process which becomes more difficult when Faith Promises are not shared or submitted by the requested date.

What are the Faith Promise funds used for? A listing of the church budget line items has been enclosed for your review. I hope you find this helpful. ([link to list](#))

Please join me in “Joyfully sharing in God’s unconditional love, welcoming and accepting each one into a life of inspiration, growth and service” during this season of Faith Promise.

Blessings,
Nancy Bergeron
Church Council: Finance

Your Faith Promise funds at work

Church Expenses:

- ✓ Critical Needs
- ✓ Missions
- ✓ Our Church's Wider Mission (NH UCC Conference)
- ✓ Pastor's Widow
- ✓ UCC Seminaries
- ✓ Building & Grounds
- ✓ Cleaning
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Maintenance & Repairs
 - Alarm System
 - Mowing, Plowing & Landscape
 - Parsonage
- ✓ Supplies
- ✓ Utilities: North Hill Church & Little River
- ✓ Clergy
- ✓ Adult Education & Faith Formation Education
- ✓ Fellowship
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Office Expenses, Equipment & Supplies
- ✓ Per Capital Fees to Conference
- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Staff: Faith Formation, Cleaning, Choir Director and Administration Assistant

