



## Worship

"We gather together, sustained by the Holy Spirit, to worship God, to nurture people in faith, to grow as disciples of Christ, and to minister to others." Worship is the foundation of how we seek to impact lives by providing guidance and Biblical direction. We seek to introduce people to Christ and to help them along their spiritual paths. We plan to continue not only weekly services but also a variety of styles of worship, like Jazz Sunday prior to Lent, Quiet Christmas, contemporary, and expanded Christmas and Easter services.



Planned expenditure for Worship is \$237,000.



## Mission

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in" (Matthew 25:35). Our mission ministry reaches those in need locally, regionally, and globally through a combination of monetary donations and hands on projects. We partner with organizations to provide clothing and shelter, rehabilitation, training and much more, and the impact of these relationships is as meaningful to us as it is to them.



Planned expenditure for Mission is \$194,000.

# Impacting People's Lives



1 Corinthians 3:9

"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."



## Music

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2). At First Congregational, we take these instructions to heart - music is central to our worship and our praise. Hymns, musical responses and instrumental solos are part of our services, and include a variety of our four choirs, worship band, and guest soloists and choirs. Additionally, the Fountain Music Series utilizes congregational talent as well as outside musicians and is recognized as a gem of Ridgefield, providing high caliber performances that are a gift to our community.



Planned expenditure for Music is \$177,000.

## Education



Education about our Christian faith is found at First Congregational for all ages, impacting the youngest of our congregation through adults. Sunday School classes for younger children use age appropriate curriculum supplemented with Godly Play, providing lessons in scripture that are relatable, participatory and fun. Middle School and High School ages benefit from dedicated teachers who provide scripture-based lessons aimed at relating the Bible to today's life. And Adult Ministry offers a series of lessons that delve deeper into Christian understanding.



Planned expenditure for Education is \$195,000.

## Congregational Care



Caring Ministries join ministers and congregants together to help members celebrate joys, support families during hard times and grieve the sad times of life. Fellowship meals, hospital and home visits, and rides to appointments and events are examples of the love and care that we provide for each other. Recipients frequently express how positive the impact of these demonstrations of Jesus's command to minister to others and to their families.



Planned expenditure for Congregational Care is \$124,000.

## Faith Commitment 2017

### *Impacting People's Lives*

Dear Members and Friends,

What is the core purpose of the church?  
When is our church really the church?

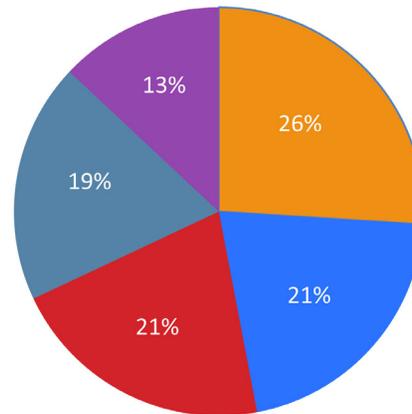
This year we are reflecting on how we, the congregation, by the grace of God, *Impact People's Lives* through worship, education, music, mission, and congregational care.

This month we encourage every member and friend to make a Faith Commitment for your financial support of our church in 2017. We are not thinking so much about budget but about how our Faith Commitments can *Impact People's Lives* through the church and in the wider community.

Worship this year regularly includes brief testimonies from members and friends on this theme of how our church and God are *Impacting People's Lives*.

Faith Commitment Sunday is October 30. Please mail or bring your Faith Commitment card to the church on or before that Sunday. This is not only important for the church as we plan for the coming year, but making a Faith Commitment helps each of us to be more faithful in our discipleship and to *Impact People's Lives* in our church and community.

Gratefully,  
Rev. Charles Hambrick-Stowe



- Worship
- Education
- Mission
- Music
- Congregational Care

Represents all planned expenditures for 2017 including staff and property

The First Congregational Church  
103 Main Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877  
203-439-8077  
[www.firstcongregational.com](http://www.firstcongregational.com)

## *Impacting People's Lives*



1 Corinthians 3:9

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you are God’s field, God’s building.”

*The First Congregational Church  
Ridgefield, Connecticut  
Stewardship 2017*

