



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

210 Melrose Avenue ~ Tryon, North Carolina 28782 ~ (828)859-9414

Create Beloved Community

“THIS IS HOW EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, WHEN YOU LOVE EACH OTHER.” - JOHN 13:35

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last year, we adopted a new vision statement:

We seek to compassionately create God's beloved community in the world by working to bring about justice for our neighbors, caring for creation, serving the needs of children and families, and exploring our faith with open hearts and minds as we live the Way of Jesus.

There are images of this vision and call to be God's beloved community throughout the Bible. Isaiah 11:1-9 reminds us of God's new life sprouting up, and a world where the cow and the bear will graze together. Matthew 6:25-34 reminds us to stop worrying, and focus on the things that truly matter—to desire first and foremost God's kingdom and righteousness. And, in John 13:31-35, we are given a new commandment to love each other, as Jesus has loved us. When we truly love each other in thought, word, and action, we build the beloved community—we do the work of creating the kingdom of heaven here on earth. What a beautiful and wonderful thing that is!

In her book *The Great Emergence*, author and religion professor Phyllis Tickle uses the analogy of “The 500-Year Rummage Sale” to describe religious change over the years. Tickle says that historically, the church “cleans house” roughly every 500 years, holding what she calls a “giant rummage sale,” deciding what to dispose of and what to keep, making room for new things. Experts in church history and culture tell us that we are once again in the midst of the 500 mark. We are told that we are living in a time where we must listen to the Holy Spirit, because God is doing a new thing, and there is no road map to follow. We must trust in the most basic message of Christianity — one of resurrection and renewal. Paul wrote, “The old life is gone; a new life has begun.” We are living in a time of Church where we truly get to create the beloved community with God. So, let's go, boldly and faithfully, where God leads us.

Last stewardship season we committed to investing in building the community of the church, so that we can continue to follow in Christ's way for generations to come. Together, we have taken a first step. Ours is a church full of generous, kind, and talented people. Because of you, many of the things we have been working on together are starting to take root. In the coming years, as we imagine what the Beloved Community, the Kingdom of God here on earth, looks like for us as a church, we will be called to continue to invest not only with our financial resources, but our time and talent, so that those roots grow deep and wide, in love and faith. It will take courage, fortitude, and hope. But when we trust in God, it is truly a journey and prayer of joy.

This year, we not only ask that you prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to the church, but a commitment to invest with your time and talent so that we can be the church God is calling into being. Let us truly show that we are disciples by loving one another—the church, the community, the world.

We also want to hear your dreams for what the beloved community will look like here at The Congregational Church, UCC, in Tryon. Enclosed you will find a “vision card” with a picture of a moment when we loved each other this year. On the back, please share your vision and dreams for this church, and how God's Kingdom might look. Please return them to the church, so we might share and witness to how the Holy Spirit is working through each of us.

Prayerfully bring the enclosed commitment card and vision card with you to worship on a Sunday in October, starting October 13, as we give thanks and promise in hope, our contributions for the year to come.

Sincerely yours,
The Stewardship Team
Rev. Meghan D. Young & Amy Correll, *Church Council President*

GIVING POTENTIAL CHART

You may find this chart helpful as you determine your commitment for the upcoming year.
Please give thoughtfully and responsibly.

Annual Income	Weekly Donation			Monthly Donation			Annual Donation		
	10%	5%	3%	10%	5%	3%	10%	5%	3%
\$25,000	\$48	\$24	\$14	\$208	\$104	\$63	\$2500	\$1250	\$750
\$30,000	\$58	\$29	\$17	\$250	\$125	\$75	\$3000	\$1500	\$900
\$40,000	\$77	\$38	\$23	\$333	\$167	\$100	\$4000	\$2000	\$1200
\$50,000	\$96	\$48	\$29	\$417	\$208	\$125	\$5000	\$2500	\$1500
\$60,000	\$115	\$58	\$35	\$500	\$250	\$150	\$6000	\$3000	\$1800
\$70,000	\$135	\$67	\$40	\$583	\$292	\$175	\$7000	\$3500	\$2100
\$80,000	\$154	\$77	\$46	\$667	\$333	\$200	\$8000	\$4000	\$2400
\$90,000	\$173	\$87	\$52	\$750	\$375	\$225	\$9000	\$4500	\$2700
\$100,000	\$192	\$96	\$58	\$833	\$417	\$250	\$10000	\$5000	\$3000
\$110,000	\$212	\$106	\$63	\$917	\$458	\$275	\$11000	\$5500	\$3300
\$120,000	\$231	\$115	\$69	\$1000	\$500	\$300	\$12000	\$6000	\$3600

Interested in including the church in your legacy planning?

Contact the Church Office or Pastor Meghan to set up an appointment to learn more.