



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
131 Middle Rd., Sayville NY 11782
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Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor; 631-827-8611

2024 Congregational Stewardship & Planning Letter

November 17, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Please know that we hold you in our constant prayers with love and gratitude for your presence and support of this congregation we share. Our life together reflects the welcoming and kindness that we offer to all, embracing the Prophet Micah's charge (6:8) to: "Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God". We know that the assurance of God's love in this world flows forth from the way we in which we live into such justice, mercy, and love in our personal lives and together as Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ. For that and much more...thank you.

As I compose this letter, I truly miss the input of our friend and member Robert Pierce, who served as Stewardship Chairperson for several years. His wisdom, his voice and his real presence continues to be with us, just not in the ways we might wish. Thank you, Robert, as you soar. And, thank you to the Committee that accepts this most important responsibility for assuring our security and financial foundation.

In the months ahead, our congregation and its leadership will begin the work of calling a new pastor. Much more will be said on that, I promise. ☺ And there will be conversations about the future "terms of call" for the spiritual leadership to come. For now, though, the work before us is to invite you to make your pledges for 2024. This is truly important and directly impacts our budget and growing vibrant faithful ministries as we continue to bring "our love" into the world.

To guide you in discerning your support, here are a few thoughts that might be helpful...

1. An annual pledge is the amount of personal giving donated to Sayville, Congregational United Church of Christ for 2024 by a member, friend, supporter.
2. Our church campus and parsonage form the property of the church, owned, managed, and administrated by our congregation. We are solely financed by our own support, including building usage, fund-raisers (The Victorian Tea and Sayville Ferry Bake Sale), along with gifts we receive

3. Members, Friends, Visitors, Viewers of Online Ministries - everyone is invited to pledge.
4. The amount you give is up to you. Your being here is always what is most important!

As for pledge amounts, it's a very personal decision based solely on your situation and discernment. In short, we ask you to consider what our congregational life together means to you and consider the upper-most limits of what you can give. Pledging in such a way can be very powerful and affirming in the commitment we make to the church and to ourselves.

5. And this: We know that conditions can change. We never encourage anyone to experience a hardship because a pledge needs to change due to unforeseen circumstances. We have a Deacon's Fund to help folks when "stuff" like that happens. And we have others who experience an increase in their finances during the year and can help a bit more. It all evens out. Whatever you pledge, please do so knowing that you, your family, and loved ones are most important to us. Always.

Here's what we ask you to do...

- 1) Fill out the pledge card and submit it to us by Sunday November 26, 2023.
 - a) You can email your pledge to Heather at churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org
 - b) You can call Heather at 631-589-1519 with your pledge.
 - c) You can mail the pledge card in using the enclosed envelope.
 - d) You can drop your pledge in the envelope in the plate at church on Sunday
- 2) Payments of Pledges
 - a) Regular payments of pledges are helpful, whenever possible. Again, everyone's situation is different, so whatever works best for you.
 - b) You can pay by Electronic Checks, paper checks, wire transfers – but please, no cash unless you speak first with Heather.
 - c) Transfer of Stock Certificates: We can arrange stock transfers if this is something that works for you. Please speak to Heather.
 - d) IRS - Required Minimum Distribution (RMD): Donations from IRA accounts to the church can have significant tax savings. Please speak with your tax advisor to see if this is an option for you. In many cases, this allows you to send your pledge as part of your RMD, satisfying the requirement for distribution without paying taxes on the withdrawal.

- e) If you wish to discuss other ways of paying you pledge, please let us know. We will work with you in all the ways we can.
- f) If you have given during 2023, enclosed is a statement of your contributions through November 15, 2023. We thank you for staying current in your pledge. If you have questions about its accuracy or other concerns, please contact Heather.

Your Stewardship Committee members are listed below and ready to answer your questions. Our contact information is in our directory. If you need a updated directory, please let Heather know, as well: churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org or call 631-589-1519. Office Hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. – 1 P. M.

Friends, in closing, I wish to share two things:

First, I do not review individual giving, That is the work of the Committee and our Church Administrator. That has been my practice from the start of my ministry. I do work with the committee working on budgets and management, once all the pledges have been totaled.

Second, it is a true privilege to be with you, and I know the generosity you so freely offer to Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ in many, many ways – and I greatly appreciate your kindness and love for one another and me. ☺ Thank you for all these things and more.

With love,

Sincerely,

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor

Your Stewardship Committee

Hilda Baeza

Mark Conrad

Sue Lanchantin

Kathy Leis

Karen Maust

To view this year's budget, annual report, and other information you can go to www.sayvilleucc.org or take a picture of the QR Code with your phone camera.

