



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SHEBOYGAN
SUSTAIN STRENGTHEN SERVE

2026 Stewardship Drive

Telling the
Story of our
Faith in Action



Greetings, members and friends of First Congregational Church, Sheboygan!

As we enter this fall season, we find ourselves both grateful and reflective. After more than 30 years of faithful leadership, Pastors Jim and Julia Hollister will soon retire, marking a profound moment of transition in the life of our church. Yet their legacy endures—in the vibrant ministries, compassionate outreach, and enduring spirit that define FCC.

This is a time to come together as a congregation to Sustain, Strengthen, and Serve: to sustain the ministries they helped build, to strengthen our shared mission for the years ahead, and to serve one another and our wider community with generosity and faith.

Once again, we are presenting our Narrative Budget, which tells the story of how your pledges sustain our ministries and make possible the daily work of our congregation. Your continued engagement—through your presence, your time, and your pledges—ensures that our work together remains strong in this next chapter of FCC's story.

First Congregational Church, UCC
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Sustain: 28% of our projected expenses

For our longstanding and beloved traditions of worship & music.



Let us **Sustain** our longstanding and beloved traditions of worship, music, etc. So many aspects of our Community life are vibrant and vital – but we need to KEEP our mission and ministry well into the future – that's why we need to make a conscious effort to sustain those things that are engaging and enriching. Gifts and pledges help to make sure our financial future is secure. We sustain our church community when we continue to invest in our music and worship, in our small groups, and in our talented staff. In addition, our commitment to sustaining God's natural creation is visible through Eden's Bluff Garden and our well tended grounds.



Activities that sustain our spiritual life:

- Sunday morning worship
- Baptisms, weddings, funerals
- Sharing in Holy Communion
- FCC adult choir
- Handbell choir
- Children's Music
- Christmas cantata

Strengthen: 37% of our projected expenses

Strengthens our faith and our connection to each other.



We know it is not enough to sustain ourselves – we also are always working to **Strengthen** our church and wider community. When we offer opportunities for folks to gather and connect through fellowship activities and youth & adult education, we strengthen and sustain the faith of our members and friends. When we attend FCC worship and programs, we become part of the many connections that occur that help to strengthen our common life together. But we also know that we are called to **Serve** others.



Activities that work to strengthen

- Firefly Preschool
- Sunday School and "Joyful Path" Curriculum
- Food for Body, Mind, and Spirit
- Pastoral visitation
- Wednesday and Thursday morning study groups
- Middle and High School Group
- Coffee hour
- Confirmation
- Sacred Stitches
- FCC Softball

Serve: 35% of our projected expenses
Supports our service to the wider community.



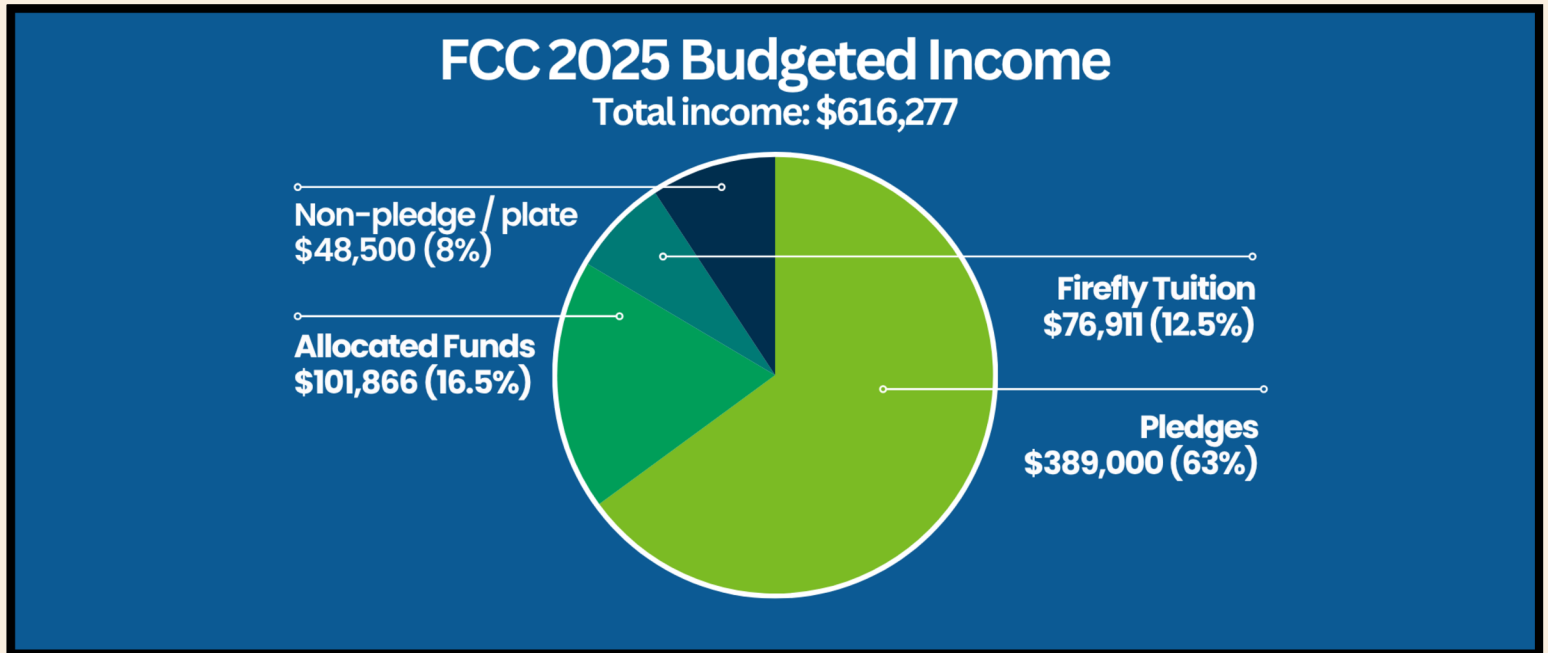
When we **serve** others, we are fulfilling the most fundamental aspect of our faith tradition. When we reach out to meet the needs of those who are hurting and hungry and looking for hope and healing, when we work to mend the broken places and systems in our world, we are living out our calling to serve. Every year we help to strengthen 25 or more organizations dedicated to making our world a better place to live in – for everyone. We are always finding new and innovative ways for us to serve. Our church members continue their service throughout the week in their many roles at home, at work and as volunteers. Our pastors and staff serve the spiritual needs of all who call the FCC "home." Many local organizations benefit from the use of our building at no cost – an often overlooked resource that reaches well beyond our congregation.



Activities that work to serve

- Christian Service Board Grants
- Youth group mission trips
- Cub Scout Pack
- English classes for immigrants
- City polling location
- Lakeshore Chorale rehearsals
- Winter Farmers Market
- Serving Community Cafe meals at St. Luke's Methodist
- Laundry Love
- Malawi Literacy Scholarship
- Eden's Bluff Garden

To fund the 2026 budget, we expect to need to increase our pledge total by \$20,000 – a 5% increase. We'd love to have you join us in accomplishing this goal.



So how can you show up?

Please consider increasing your 2026 pledge, making a first-time pledge or giving a year-end donation. Show up on Sundays or during the week and make a connection – or be that connection for someone else.

How will you Sustain, Strengthen and Serve our church and wider community in the coming year?

All members and friends will be receiving **a second mailing with a pledge card** during the week of November 4-8. We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge, fill out the card and bring it to worship on Stewardship Sunday, November 16, 2025, or pledge online through the FCC website. You can also mail the pledge card to the office – FCC, 310 Bluff Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081 in the next few weeks.

Thank you!

YOU are what makes FCC Sheboygan so special – thanks for all you do!