



Charlemont Federated Church

Fall 2025

Dear Members and Friends of the Charlemont Federated Church:

We're writing, as we do each fall, to ask for your continuing participation in the life of the Federated Church as an institution of faith and the heart and soul of our community. Each of us supports the church in many ways: with time, prayer, and gifts. Every form of support strengthens us. In this Stewardship Season, we specifically seek your financial support. The Federated Church is preparing for a new, exciting time as we get ready for our next settled pastor and our next chapter as a church.

We have been sustained during this time by the excellent counsel and energy of our interim minister, the Reverend Dr. Janet Adair Hansen. We have also relied on the ongoing volunteer spirit that has kept our church alive for decades. We have elected a Search Committee and hope to find someone to call as our settled pastor soon.

As we anticipate a new permanent minister, we are imagining the roles we would like to play in the years to come. Our transition team has led us in recent brainstorming sessions about our future. We have discussed continuing practices essential to our identity, including music; the Good Neighbors food pantry; our welcoming spirit to a variety of denominations; and ongoing partnerships with the Charlemont Forum, Mohawk Trail Concerts, and the Charlemont-Hawley Senior Center. We are exploring intriguing ways in which we might be of more use to our larger community. Information will be shared in upcoming issue of our newsletter, the *Clarion*, as in the e-Newsletter.

We hope you agree that our church—as a place of worship, as a community hub, as an emergency shelter, and more—is worth supporting financially. Even as we look to the future, we must maintain our beloved elderly building, keep the lights and the heat on, and store the food for Good Neighbors. Our Missions and Outreach program also needs to be funded. It supports Good Neighbors, the Church's Discretionary Fund, the Resilience Center (formerly NELCWIT), Refugio Rafael in Bolivia, Caritas Ukraine, the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Center in Bethlehem, the interdenominational Schools at Ibillin, and global emergency response.

Please consider the level of support that is right for you and be as generous as you can in filling out the enclosed form. Your information will help us plan for the coming year. Pledges come in many forms. Weekly, monthly, annual, one-time gifts (gifts in memoriam or in honor of someone special) are always welcome. We invite you to celebrate our collective gifts on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23. Join us at any time as we nurture our legacy and chart our future. We may not see all of you all the time, but anyone who comes here for any reason is part of our church.

Warmly,
The Deacons of the Federated Church and the Missions & Outreach Team
Esther Haskell, Laura Hicks, John Hoffman, Sheila Litchfield, Annie Rancourt, Rob Riggan, Tinky Weisblat, Ned Wolf, and Wayne Zavotka; Ken Bertsch; Cheryl Handsaker; Budge Litchfield, Peter Purdy, Susie Zavotka and Janice Waldron-Hansen