



**First Congregational
Church of Reading**

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Dear FCCR Family:

According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Let each builder choose with care how to build on it. (1 Corinthians 3:10-11)

In these words from First Corinthians, the Apostle Paul connects the past and future of Christ's work among these new Christians. It's their role and their joy to build on the foundation that Paul laid, planning for congregations still to come. Indeed, that's the role and joy of each generation of Christians.

At FCCR, we are engaged in building on the foundation that generations before ours laid over three centuries ago. Like our ancestors in faith, we celebrate in music and word and art, in fellowship and study, in the silence of reflection and in the exuberance of children. Our building reflects the joyful diversity of the family and friends who make up this community, where each day highlights different platforms for neighbors to build and share their talents. We rejoice in our role as a hub for all these evolving needs.

Over the past months (and years!), our congregation has affirmed a commitment to growing our presence in Reading. It's clear that to live into that commitment, we need to invest substantial funds in updating the facilities. We are working with a consultant from the UCC, who has surveyed the congregation, conversed with many stakeholders, and met with our planning team to develop a capital campaign.

The capital campaign seeks \$400,000 - \$600,000 in commitments to update and modify our building. I am confident that we will be successful in reaching our goal, and I challenge you to join me in pledging generously. I ask you to prayerfully consider the amount that is right for you, which may be given over the next three years. Please read the enclosed campaign materials and watch for opportunities to discuss the campaign in the coming weeks. Your personal Letter of Commitment will be available for you to complete (at church or at home) after Sunday services on October 13 and 20. We hope to have all Letters returned to the Church by Sunday, October 27, Celebration Sunday!

As we join in this new challenge, we also join our ancestors in the church who met their current needs while choosing with care how to build for the future. With that great cloud of witnesses, we will move forward in ministry and community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Philbrick

Barbara Philbrick, Moderator