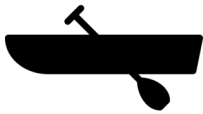




Thank you for your continued support of the church. All the gifts made in 2024, gifts both pledged and unpledged, gifts of time, gifts of talent and gifts of treasure are appreciated.

Those gifts made it possible for our church to remain vital and have an impact on our community, country and world.

ROWBOAT OR SAILBOAT?



The concept of a sailboat church is from the book, *Sailboat Church: helping your church rethink its mission and practice*, by Joan S. Gray. Gray's metaphor of a sailboat for the church is based on her assertion that "The church was created to be a Spirit-powered mission movement." The wind is often used as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit so the perfect metaphor for a church is something that is wind-powered like a sailboat. The opposite would be the rowboat since it is human-powered. There are two verses that form the basis for the book. The first is John 15:5 where Jesus tells the disciples "apart from me you can do nothing." The second verse is Luke 1:37 where the angel Gabriel tells Mary "nothing will be impossible with God."

- Sailboat churches focus on discerning and carrying out God's will.
- The congregation of a sailboat church views church as a place to transform and grow.
- They believe that sailing is about working with God as the body of Christ.
- Sailboat churches trust in God's provision and testify to His presence in their lives.

Being a Sailor

God has given us each unique gifts. Gifts of time and talent are key for the vitality of the church. The Spiritual Gifts Inventory can help you discern what your unique gifts are and how you can best serve God and the church. It is available on the website (bit.ly/fupc-sgifts) or you may contact the church office for a printed version. Once you have identified your spiritual gifts, look for opportunities to serve on ministry teams, assist with or help lead church events, or to be a part of the church's outreach and service efforts. The announcements and the Weekly Update are both good places to find opportunities to use your spiritual gifts. If you have questions or a specific idea about how you might serve, speak with Stewart, Isaac, Amanda or Kristi.

IMPORTANT DATES



Please plan to worship at 10:30 am on November 10 and stay for lunch. The Stewardship Lunch is your opportunity to learn about the 2025 Challenge budget and ask questions about stewardship. It is also a time to get caught up with friends or meet new people! The lunch will be in Fellowship Hall and will be catered by Olive Garden.



November 17 is Dedication Sunday. Please bring your completed pledge card to worship with you.



If you are unable to attend on the 17th, please mail your completed pledge card or pledge online on or before December 1.

CONTINUING TO SAIL TOGETHER



FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN

THE ONE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN
YOU WILL CONTINUE TO COMPLETE IT
UNTIL THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

This year's stewardship theme is from the opening verses of Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. It is obvious from this letter that Paul had a great deal of affection for that congregation. I know that all of us have a similar type of affection for First United Presbyterian.

There are a lot of questions and some uncertainty during this time of transition between installed pastoral leadership. But the work of the church continues and I am proud of how you have kept "sailing along" after the retirement of your co-pastors. This year's challenge budget takes some of these uncertainties and questions in to account. The 2025 budget reflects a modest 2% increase. It is important in this time of transition to keep our budget in position for future staffing needs. We will use the cushion in the pastors' salary line item to address possible needs such as our aging HVAC units on campus, a budget for a Pastor Nominating Committee, and additions to our First Worship Service. Most committees' budgets will remain the same as in 2024.

As we continue sailing in this time of transition, Paul reminds us that our God, who has started great things here at FUPC, will be faithful and present with us, as we carry on our ministry in 2025 and beyond. I look forward to "sailing" with you as together we discern how we can respond to God's great faithfulness to us!!

Blessings,

Stewart

CONTINUING TO SAIL

WORSHIPING AND

WORKING TOGETHER



LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

SHARING OUR STORIES . . . AND OUR GIFTS

