



309 HIGHLAND ROAD, ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850

An Open & Affirming Congregation

The Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Pastor

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The Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Green, Emeritus Pastor

November 16, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of FCCI,

It is often said that the “church is the people” and this is certainly true of us.

FCCI’s members and friends are our church’s most precious asset. Each one of us is blessed with gifts and talents that enrich our community of faith – from caring to web design, managing finances to making music, leading a ministry area to volunteering with children and youth, and so many more. We are a vibrant, growing, energetic, and compassionate church because of the willingness of our members and friends to give time and talent to help our ministries thrive.

Your support in 2021 enabled us to move smoothly into the implementation phase of the five-year strategic plan and work toward our goal of being a growing and vital congregation. Our plans for 2022 will see an expanding caring ministry, more programs for all ages, more fellowship and support groups for spiritual growth, enhanced communication and use of technology, and a more intentionally welcoming culture for all who enter our doors (in person or online). While we grow and evolve, we will remain deeply rooted in love.

We were conservative in fiscal year 2021, flattening our expenses across the board in response to the uncertainty of the pandemic. In 2022 we anticipate some modest increases to program costs, building maintenance, and overhead as more people return to church and we continue to expand our ministries. Next year’s expenses are expected to be 4-5% higher than those budgeted for 2021, which means that the cost per day in 2022 to support FCCI’s programs and ministries will be about \$1490.

As you prayerfully fill out your pledge card for 2022, we invite you to consider your pledge *either* in terms of the number of days you could fund next year *or* consider an increase of about 5% over the amount you gave last year.

Thank you so much for being an active part of our community of faith.

Blessings,

Stewardship Team

William Cowdery, Director of Music Ministries & Organist • Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries
Anna Sannes, Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries • Erica Contreras, Administrative Assistant
Mary Ellen Stewart, Finance & Administrative Manager • Stephen Devlen, Custodian