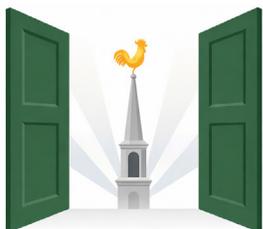


Doors Wide Open

*A Community Wide
Capital Campaign*

*Honoring our Past
and Embracing
our Future*



DOORS WIDE OPEN

Honoring our past and
embracing our future

**First Church of Christ in Longmeadow
763 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA**



Doors Wide Open

Our historic building is a center for action and community

Since its founding in 1716, the church has stood as a beacon of faith, leadership, and service. The historic church on the Green remains the oldest continuously active meetinghouse in the Connecticut Valley, a living testament of our commitment to justice, community, and worship.

For over 300 years, First Church of Christ has been at the heart of Longmeadow—spiritually, historically, and communally. Our bell, cast by Paul Revere in 1809, still rings out, and the iconic rooster atop the steeple—featured on the town seal—reflects the deep bond between First Church and the people of Longmeadow.

The **Doors Wide Open Campaign** honors this legacy by preparing our historic space for the generations to come. This is more than restoration; it is an investment in faith, justice, and community. The campaign funds will assure that First Church will continue to be strong, sustainable, and ready to serve those who need us most. Together we will honor our past, strengthen our present, and build a vibrant future for our community.

In a day and age when too many historic church buildings are falling apart and 10,000 -15,000 churches a year are closing their doors, First Church is an active church that has its doors wide open for our community.

We want to continue to be a church that is thriving, not just surviving. We want to keep our doors WIDE OPEN for worship, community, justice, and impact.



Doors Wide Open for COMMUNITY

Opening doors, strengthening community, shaping the future

First Church believes in serving our community. Our ministries serve both members and non-members alike. Our doors are open to diverse groups seeking healing, growth, education, and connection.

14 support groups serve nearly 200 people confronting life challenges such as addiction, grief, and trauma through the 14 step support groups that meet in our church on a weekly basis.

Longmeadow Montessori School educates 95 preschool and kindergarten children on our campus each day.

In partnership with **More Than Mom**, a local nonprofit, we host a bi-annual clothing swap and an annual toy swap, helping families stretch resources and keep gently used goods out of landfills.

We partner with Longmeadow Public Schools through initiatives like the **Witness Stones Project**, acknowledging the town's history with slavery, remembering the history and honoring the humanity of the enslaved people.

Every summer First Church hosts a kid's camp for children in our church and the community.

A new multi-level **Girl Scout** troop began meeting at First Church in 2024, providing a supportive space for 15 girls to learn, grow, and lead.

Investing in our campus ensures we remain a **vibrant hub for learning, dialogue, and healing- serving the full Longmeadow community.**

"Longmeadow Public Schools' partnership with First Church through the Witness Stones Project has given students a meaningful and moving way to connect with local history and deepen their understanding of social justice. First Church's commitment to uncovering and sharing the stories of enslaved members of the Longmeadow community has had a profound impact on our students and on the town today."

Marty O'Shea, Superintendent of Schools, Longmeadow Public Schools



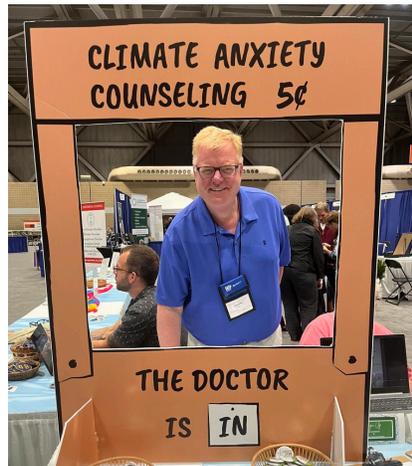
"Three times a year More than Mom hosts community swap events where families are able to receive clothes, supplies, and toys at no cost. First Church of Christ welcomed us with open arms and has graciously allowed us to use Bailey Hall, which has allowed us to serve 339 families in 2025. "

Caitlin Tobin, President



Doors Wide Open for JUSTICE

Living our faith through service, justice, and compassion



At First Church, we believe that faith calls us to action.

Loaves and Fishes: Church members prepare meals twice monthly to help the Open Pantry feed over 2,400 food-insecure neighbors each year.

In partnership with the **National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti** (CONASPEH) we've provided over \$58,000 in aid since 2022 and nurtured a decades-long relationship through mission trips and mutual support.

We co-led a **multi-faith refugee resettlement project**, welcoming and supporting an Afghan family of ten as they rebuild their lives in Western Massachusetts.

Our **Environmental Justice Team** engages the congregation in faithful climate action, from sustainability efforts to collaborative advocacy. We have also supported and sponsored the Planet Fiesta on the Green established by Youth for a Sustainable Future at Longmeadow High School.

Every year our church participates in the **Greater Springfield CROP Hunger Walk**. Walkers and their sponsors work together to help alleviate hunger and food insecurities both globally and locally. For the past three years First Church has received the award for the most funds raised.

Our justice work reflects a deep truth: **love and service are at the heart of faith.**

"Words fail us to express our feelings of gratitude and to tell you how much your support is an essential help for our organization" - Bishop Francoise Villiers, Director of CONASPEH



"I, Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor of the City of Springfield, do hereby confer upon you this citation in recognition of being named a 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award Honoree for your Faith Based Initiative."

Doors Wide Open For IMPACT

Creating community through compassion, connection, and shared purpose

“The relationship that Open Pantry Community Services has with First Church of Christ is irreplaceable.”

Nicole P. Lussier, Open Pantry Director



At First Church, our building isn't just a place of worship—it's a place where lives are touched and transformed. *Creating community through compassion, connection, and shared purpose.*

Our **Meetinghouse Lecture Series** brings national thought leaders to Longmeadow for a civic dialogue on critical issues like Religious nationalism, climate change, and mass incarceration.

As an **Open and Affirming** congregation since 2011, we actively celebrate LGBTQ+ inclusion, hosting events like the annual Pride Prom and our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, and by supporting Longmeadow Pride.

Our beloved **Christmas Fair** brings 1,000 people from the wider community into our space each year. In 2025, 70 volunteers helped raise \$28,000 to support local charities and social service programs.

Each year, we host the **Broadway Benefit** Concerts, raising critical funds for local causes. In 2025, the Benefit raised \$30,000 for Open Pantry Community Services.

Each year First Church gives over \$100,000 to local causes in the regional community.

Through partnerships, programs, financial support or events, **First Church is a place where community thrives—and where impact is made, together.**



First Church is a regional leader that impacts the community through financial and volunteer support:

- TEN local programs addressing food insecurity and shelter.
- NINE programs that improve quality of life and long-term well-being.
- FIVE educational and community-building initiatives.
- FOUR programs supporting the LGBTQIA community.
- THREE communities receiving timely disaster relief.
- TWO organizations advancing regional and international mission work, including Haiti.

Doors Wide Open for WORSHIP

Worship that inspires, empowers, and unites our community

“We love that First Church provides a welcoming and inclusive environment for our young family to grow in our knowledge and faith. The robust support and opportunities for families with children creates a strong and connected intergenerational faith community.”

Erica Bamford, church member

Worship is the heartbeat of First Church—uplifting, inclusive, and deeply rooted in tradition and innovation. We gather across generations to reflect, rejoice, and respond to the needs of today’s world.

We are an Open and Affirming church. You are welcome here no matter where you are from, who you love, or where you are at on your spiritual journey.

We are also an intergenerational church that values people of all ages and stages of life. We also place a strong emphasis on children’s and youth ministries.

We see all human beings as spiritual, and it is our hope to offer people the space they need in worship to pay attention to this side of themselves.

Our worship services are designed to uplift, challenge, and unite, nourishing both soul and community.



Our Campaign will Achieve



Restore & Preserve Our Historic Buildings

- Finish Painting & Restoring Building Exterior
- Replace & Restore Windows
- Renovate the Parsonage

\$400,000



Improve Accessibility & Functionality

- Replace Elevator mechanical systems for safety & long term functionality
- Renovate Bathrooms

\$300,000



Additional Roof Restoration

- Remove & replace all Flat Roof Membranes
- Replace Chimney & Vents that are beyond repair
- Upgrade flashing & drain seals to insure water tight seal

\$100,000



Enhance Community Spaces

- Improve & Expand Air Conditioning
- Upgrade Fire Safety
- Improve signage, carpets & furnishings
- Paint Sanctuary ceiling

\$350,000



Upgrade Electrical, Sound & Technology

- Update Audio & Visual Technology
- Upgrade server, sound systems to enable streaming, recording and viewing capabilities

\$150,000



Redesign & Update Kitchen

- New layout to increase efficiency
- Energy efficient appliances
- Improve access to Bailey Hall

\$300,000



Capital Improvement Fund

- Establish a Fund to preserve our historic buildings
- Ensure long-term safety, beauty, and functionality of the First Church facility

\$900,000

Campaign Goal \$2.5 M

DOORS WIDE OPEN Capital Campaign

Building First Church's Capacity to Serve the Needs of Our Wider Community

The Doors Wide Open Campaign is not a campaign which is saying “build it and they will come.” This campaign is about preserving this facility, so that our people and building can continue to serve all people in our community.

This campaign is not just about historic preservation. but also ensuring that our ministries continue to serve this community for many years to come with an approach that is energetic, inclusive, and filled with compassion. Our aim is to help the people and organizations who find connection with us to keep making a difference in our community and world.

First Church has a long tradition of supporting the community—providing more than \$100,000 each year and hundreds of volunteer hours to address food insecurity, homelessness, disaster relief, and our partnership school in Haiti.

Our Capital Campaign is about more than buildings. It strengthens the foundation that makes all this service possible. By investing in our structural and operational capacity, we ensure that First Church remains a reliable partner, able to mobilize resources quickly and expand support for those facing hunger, homelessness, and crisis.

Your gift fuels this mission—helping us meet immediate needs while ensuring we can serve for generations to come.

As our mission evolves, so does our giving. In recent years, we've expanded our community engagement through initiatives such as Longmeadow Pride, the Meeting House Lecture Series, Planet Fiesta, Pioneer Valley Project, Witness Stones, and a wide range of children's programs. We are increasingly hands-on, pairing financial contributions with active participation.



The members of First Church contribute in so many ways to Open Pantry. Here are just a few:

- Cook and serve meals at our Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen
- Donate non-perishables to our Emergency Food Pantry
- Holiday Gift Giving Tree (filled with toys, gift cards, etc.!)
- Year-round financial support
- Broadway Benefit. A yearly Broadway show right at First Church, where all proceeds go directly to Open Pantry.

The members of First Church of Christ are compassionate and true to their mission statement. They are welcoming to us all.

Nicole P. Lussier, Open Pantry Director

"Our transgender support group, UniTy, lost our sponsor and our meeting place over the summer and we desperately needed a new meeting place. I asked my friends who are members of the church if they might have room for us. They responded affirmatively and we had a new meeting place within a couple of days. We are very happy with the friendly and progressive Christian values of the church."

Deja Nicole Greenlaw, UniTy of Pioneer Valley



"This past school year I found myself wanting to take on a project unlike anything I'd done before, educating our town on climate change through the form of a festival, Planet Fiesta.

First Church actively invited me to their environmental group meeting where they offered advice, labor, funds, advertising, and so much more. Their group continuously aided me in the ways I wished to be aided and supported."

Shyla Ruiz Kachwaha

"Until I heard about the Stones Project, I never knew about slavery in MA. I was 77 years old at the time. Until I attended the presentation at the church, I never knew that a slaves' name was taken from them. I felt the impact of that. I thought that this is a special place that would openly share an unpleasant aspect of its history.

As the brother of a newly out trans sister, I am attending the trans support group that is now meeting at First Church to be able to better understand and support my sister. I've had the pleasure of meeting the pastor, being at a couple of interfaith gatherings and hearing him speak. His words have resonated with me. I feel good when I drive by the church and see it there."

Ed Fitzgerald

DOORS WIDE OPEN Capital Campaign

Honoring our Past and Embracing our Future

Your Support Will:

- **Preserve & Restore** our historic, iconic building to reduce long term costs and ensure sustainability.
- **Improve** our building to be more functional, accessible and safe for everyone. (Elevators, restrooms)
- **Increase** our ability to host more support groups and other community groups with more accessible, functional spaces for meetings and events (Lower level/ Bailey Hall/ Kitchen)
- **Support** community children through enhanced Montessori Preschool facilities (Parsonage repairs and enhancements)
- **Reach** more people with new technology that allows remote involvement of individual and groups not able to come in person. (Upgrade audio and visual technology)
- **Build** First Church's membership and capacity of Justice teams to impact the community. (Enhanced worship spaces and lower level)
- **Continue to Attract** more young families to First Church with a more modern building for classes and family events. (Enhanced community spaces)
- **Expand** opportunities to partner with the UCC and local organizations to fight for people of ALL races, abilities, creeds, gender identity, and status.
- **Direct** more of our annual contributions to support those in need (Preservation Trust Fund)

"First Church is a blessing for 12 - Step Recovery Groups including Al-anon, Alcoholics, Overeaters, and Gamblers Anonymous, by providing a safe space for our communities to meet and share fellowship and foster our physical, mental, and spiritual recovery. The AA Longmeadow Group began meeting at the church in 1945, the year I was born, and at 80 years old it is the third oldest AA group in the entire Pioneer Valley." - Charlie McKee

By giving to this campaign, you assure that First Church is strong, sustainable, and ready to serve those who need us most. Together, we will honor our past, strengthen our present, and build a vibrant future for our community.



Mission: First Church of Longmeadow is striving to be a church the world needs today.

Vision: We want to be a church that thrives into the future, by maintaining our generous, inclusive, action oriented, and God centered spirit.