



# Light Our Path

Stewardship 2024

***Your word is a lamp  
to my feet and a  
light to my path.***

—Psalm 119:105

Church of the Advent is an engaged community that seeks to follow Jesus. We're eager to live into the potential of who God is calling us to be, trusting that God will illuminate our way. The Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) results show that we're ready to deepen our commitment to God, to one another, and to our neighbors near and far. As together we discern our next steps, ***we pray and ask God to Light Our Path.***

## Our Gifts

- Faith-filled and joyful worship
- Generous service towards our neighbors
- Formation for all ages
- Vibrant, intergenerational, growing congregation
- Deep commitment to the life of our parish

## Our Goals

- Have 100% participation in pledging.
- Increase pledge dollars to allow for a balanced budget that maintains our staff and programs.
- Take the next faithful step forward in developing strategic goals for the next 2–3 years.
- Continue to invite and welcome new members.

## Our Requests

- **Join us** as participants and leaders in Sunday morning worship and for special events.
- **Pledge.** If Church of the Advent is your church home, please pledge. Every pledge is valued.
- **Invite someone** to worship or an event.
- **Say “yes”** to something new. Read during the service; call a fellow parishioner; host Coffee Hour; set God's table; step into a leadership role.
- **Pray.** Ask God to Light Our Path.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is stewardship?**

Stewardship is our response to God's generosity as we share our time, talent, and money. Stewardship reflects our commitment to use the gifts God has given us for the work God calls us to do.

A **stewardship campaign** is an annual event to raise funds to pay for church ministries, operations, and building maintenance. During the campaign, members are asked to make a pledge.

### **What is a pledge, and why is pledging important?**

A pledge is a member's voluntary commitment to support the church financially in the coming year. It is a statement of intent, not a contract or legal obligation. We offer our money to God's service as an act of gratitude and trust in God, as well as a way to grow deeper in relationship with God and one another. Giving is also a way of affirming that we are a significant and valuable part of the church congregation and that we want to do our part to see that the church remains vital and vibrant in all of its ministries.

### **Why can't I just contribute week to week as I am able?**

Pledges pay for the vast majority of our expenses. We do stewardship in the fall so that the vestry knows what our income will be and can create a realistic budget for staff and programs; the budget is approved at Annual Meeting early in the new year. (Of course pledges also are welcome throughout the year!)

### **What if my situation changes and I'm unable to fulfill my pledge?**

Please don't worry. You can always adjust your pledge (just let the office or Treasurer know). You should also know that you can always reach out to our clergy for care and help if you need it.

### **Who is asked to pledge?**

We ask everyone to pledge. We depend on your gift to make certain our doors remain open for our members, our newcomers, and those we have yet to meet.

### **How much money does Advent receive from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts?**

We receive no money from the diocese. The diocese charges us an assessment to support diocesan ministries.

### **How much should I pledge?**

Your annual pledge is a personal decision, made in conversation with God, and will reflect your circumstances. Every pledge, regardless of the amount, makes a valued contribution to our programs and ministries.

Some members offer a biblical tithe, giving 10% of their income to the church. Others commit a certain percentage of their income, increasing that percentage as they are able. If you pledged last year, we are asking members to prayerfully consider increasing their pledge by 20% as part of our commitment to achieve a balanced budget that will support our growing congregation and allow for a full-time priest.

### **How will my offering be used?**

Your financial gifts directly support our worship, music, pastoral care, education of youth and adults, newcomer welcome, ministries, and our outreach in the world. Generally, our rental income covers the costs of maintaining the actual church building—a blessing not all parishes share.

### **How do I make my pledge?**

You can fill out a pledge card and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church, or fill out an online form linked from [adventmedfield.org](http://adventmedfield.org) > Give > Stewardship 2024: Light Our Path.

### **How do I make my pledge payment?**

You can make a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payment. You can pay online in Realm (go to [adventmedfield.org](http://adventmedfield.org) > Give); process an electronic payment through your bank; or put a check in the offering plate. You also can make a gift from a charitable foundation or through a stock transfer.

## Church of the Advent