

## Stewardship for 2026: “Love you Church”

As we were preparing our approach for this year’s Stewardship campaign, a couple of unexpected ‘lightbulbs’ appeared in front of me.

The first, a few weeks ago, was something left in the pew where kids were sitting before they left for Sunday School. Simply an offering envelope with the penciled message “Love you Church”. And it moved me so much. We don’t need a slick and glossy pamphlet when we have the heart of the message from the youngest in our church family.

And so, our questions to consider for ourselves and in discussion at our lunch tables are these:

- How will YOU show the message “Love you Church” in 2026? (perhaps in unexpected ways)
- How will/should our church extend that love into our community and beyond in 2026?

Take a minute to think about those questions... and we’ll talk later

We have been so blessed – recently with a demonstration of confidence and hope for our church from the Hudson River Presbytery, a grant for the funding to move our part-time pastor position to full time. And now, we, together with Pastor Ekama can vision and dream a future where we can grow as individuals and as a church, and we can expand our ability to make a difference in a world where the challenges are ever increasing.

Yes, we have financial challenges, as the cost of maintaining our facility to keep the doors open, lights on and heat going to welcome community groups here to include the Food Pantry, Groups such as AA and Bereavement Support, Joining Forces and more.

Almost 75% of our operating funds are from Pledge contributions, so we ask that if you already pledge, please maintain or if possible, increase it. If you don't presently pledge please consider doing so. Return this form and we'll dedicate our pledges on December 7 when we celebrate the 197<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church!

In closing (Don't we love to hear those words!), I want to share the other lightbulb which I mentioned earlier.

Last week, I heard a speaker, on the subject of HOPE, say this:

***Hope is not a prediction that everything will be ok. Hope is a commitment to make it so.***

*With great hope for the future of our church,*

**I am making that commitment here, to Love our Church by being present and supporting it, and by working in our church to expand our impact on this community and beyond.**

*I invite you to join me...*

