



The Terryville Congregational Church United Church of Christ

233 Main Street
Terryville, Connecticut 06786
Office Phone (860) 589-0182 Fax (860) 589-1896
Office Email: terryvillechurch@hotmail.com
Website: www.terryvillecongregationalchurch.org

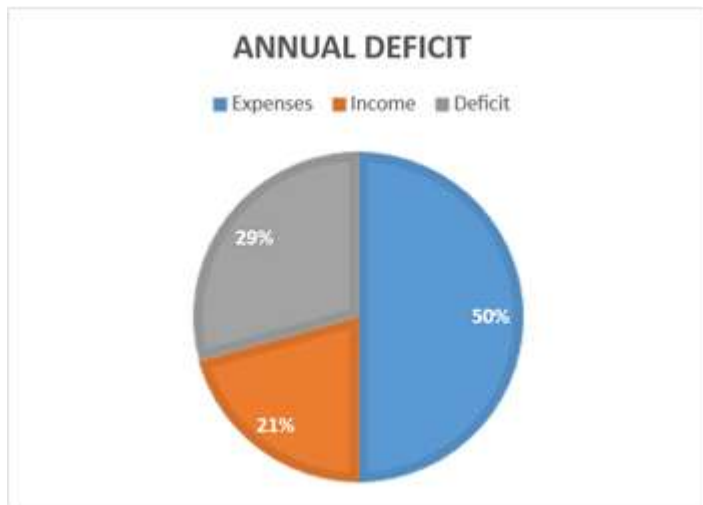
The Rev. Zachary Mabe, Pastor

October 2025

Dear Members & Friends of Terryville Congregational Church (TCC):

Our Finance Committee has thought about how best to word this year's pledge letter. Perhaps the best way is to just be upfront: our church is running a deficit budget and dipping into our savings at an unsustainable rate. No one can predict the future, but we must do what we can to support our church and reduce the deficit.

Expenses: \$300,604 Income: \$121,141 Deficit: \$176,463



You might be wondering if any cuts can be made to our budget. Our Finance Committee has worked hard over the past several years to make cuts as well as not place any increases in the budget. The simple fact is that our budget is what it costs to have a fully functioning church in 2026, our two biggest expenses being building facilities/building upkeep and staffing.

Let's look at the numbers when it comes to pledging in the last three years.

2023: 248 pledge mailings were sent (this can be individuals and/or families, and this is the number of potential pledge units we have in the church). 91 individuals/families made a pledge. That's a 37% response.

2024: 251 pledge mailings were sent, and 118 individuals/families made a pledge. That's a 47% response.

2025: 251 pledge mailings went out, but only 62 made a pledge. That's only a 25% response.

Continued on back page→

We were trending up from 2023 to 2024, but then we took a major step backward in 2025. We have to rise up and support our church! This year, we have made an effort to “clean up” our membership list and mail only to the members that we know are active members. This year, we are sending out 181 pledge mailings. Please respond and make a pledge. Our Finance Committee is taking an “all of the above” approach to figure out the best way to support our budget, whether it be creative fundraising, merging with another church, renting out portions of our building, increasing our individual room rental prices, and - especially – emphasizing the importance of pledging. The Committee has figured that if 150 families/individuals pledge \$1533 annually we can help continue the ministries of TCC. We know that not everyone is able to make such a pledge (and some are able to do much more), but we ask that you prayerfully consider your support of our church.

Here is how a pledge of \$1533 breaks down:

\$128/month

\$32/week

Pledge Sunday for the 2026 year will be held **Sunday, October 19, 2025** during our 10am Worship Service. As of the writing of this letter, we have had over 100 attend worship for all Sundays in September (other than Labor Day). It is good that we have solid worship attendance, but we also need to be aware that our church budget is in a deficit and needs all of our support to keep the ministries of TCC alive.

We hope everyone will joyfully give and fill out a pledge form. You can generously give in one of three ways:

1. Return your pledge form on October 19, 2025 during worship for a special blessing and dedication.
2. Mail in your pledge form, or drop it at our church office Mon-Fri 10am-2pm.
3. Give online: enter your pledge through our secure paypal system at <http://www.terryvillecongregationalchurch.org/> or through Venmo (In this case, please also let us know your plans by returning your pledge form and indicate that you give online).

Please note: if you write a check within the year 2025 but the check is for your 2026 pledge, we will hold the check and not deposit it until after January 1, 2026 so that your pledge will apply to the year 2026.

On the bottom of the pledge form, there is a place where you can note the volunteer offerings of your time and talents. Please fill out the entire form. Remember: a pledge can be changed at any time; it's not a bill, it's a faithful estimate of one's giving and it greatly helps us as we prepare the budget for our church.

We'd like to close with some good news. 1) The total pledging plus loose change offering dollars was up \$5,000 from 2023 to 2024 (final 2025 data is not yet available). 2) Attendance and the impact of our events has been strong: over 100 in worship each Sunday in September, two back-to-back successful summer mission trips to help neighbors in need, and great Christian fellowship with one another through all of our various events. Let's all be in prayer and do what we can to support our beloved TCC.

Sincerely,

Your 2025-2026 Finance Committee: Bob Grosof, Wayne Harnish, Alison Reed, Ron Benson, Dave Morrell (Trustee Rep), Jake Armbruster (Business Group Leader)

Enclosures: 2026 Pledge Form