



170

YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP

First Church
First United Methodist Church of Seattle



HONORING OUR PAST
Committed to Our Future

First Church has been in Seattle for 170 years. There is still work to do.

Dear First Church,

We are a church that has not been afraid to invest in people and ministry, to continue our mission to Seattle even when society is in crisis.

One of the stories I tell about First Church is from the 1970s when Boeing suffered a huge slump, with massive layoffs of half its workforce. Then a recession hit. Nixon resigned. It was a time of crisis. A billboard was posted outside Seattle city limits, "WILL THE LAST PERSON LEAVING SEATTLE TURN OUT THE LIGHTS?"

First Church responded to that crisis by investing in the people. Laid-off Boeing workers had great skills – electrical, construction, etc. So the church hired them to make renovations of the sanctuary and chapel and offices, thereby keeping food on their tables at home until the job market leveled out. It was a time of uncertainty for Seattle, yet we took the leap of faith for those in crisis.

For the church's 170-year existence, we have been responsive to the needs of our community. Now in 2023, Seattle has experienced an increase in severe weather events, homelessness and food insecurity, and ongoing conflict over social justice issues. No matter the crisis, we continue our mission, investing in people and ministry in Seattle. This spirit of cooperation, shared vision, and mutuality of caring for others has marked First Church throughout our past and continues to mark First Church today.

November 5th:
Stewardship Sunday!
All Saints Sunday!
Financial update!

As we honor our past, we remain committed to our future:

- **Children and youth** ministries make up 25% of our church's program budget. In 2024 we'll hold our first summer Vacation Bible School in a decade and, during Lent, a new Confirmation class for teens will meet; both are investments in raising the next generation in the church.
- Weekly Sunday morning **Shared Breakfasts** served 9742 meals in 2022, touching hundreds of people who are food insecure in the city. Shared Breakfast leaders show great tenacity, coordinating volunteers and writing requests for funding. For instance, this year the Shared Breakfast program received \$10,000 from United Way thanks to Jim Schone's grant requests.

- **Music** tends to our soul. The church music program has expanded this year with the gifts of more soloists and the introduction of an audio/visual technician, enhancing the worship experience in-person and at home.
- The earth is our future! For the first time, congregants were asked to give **Earth Pledges** in 2022, committing to individual actions or efforts to seek climate justice. You can sign up for one this year at [FirstChurchSeattle.org/give/earthpledge](https://www.firstchurchseattle.org/give/earthpledge)
- The "Spirit Moves Us Forward" 2023 **capital campaign** raised over \$400,000 in pledges, enabling us to pay off our 2010 building mortgage in 2025, thereby freeing up resources for the church to invest even more in our ministry and mission.

November 19th:
 Celebration Sunday //
 guest preacher
 Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan

November 12th:
 Commitment Sunday //
 special presentation in
 worship, reception after
 worship with treasures from
 170 years.

The lights are still on in Seattle, and our work goes on. First Church continues to invest in people and ministries. The Message Bible translation in Matthew 5 reads "You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill."

As we look towards the upcoming year, I pray that you will continue to grow spiritually, step into spaces of advocacy, and care for the person in need of refuge. I would also like to invite you to prayerfully consider how you might support First Church financially in 2024. First Church's mission takes all of us to accomplish, and it is a mission for which all of us can be proud.

To set up a gift for 2024 online go to [FirstChurchSeattle.org/give](https://www.firstchurchseattle.org/give), scan the QR code in the letterhead or bring the enclosed 2024 Stewardship pledge card to our joyous Stewardship Sunday Celebration on November 12th at 10:30AM.

Did you know? For the second year, Earth Pledges will be received alongside financial pledges. You can learn more about these at the enclosed article or at [FirstChurchSeattle.org/give/earthpledge](https://www.firstchurchseattle.org/give/earthpledge)

Blessings and see you Sunday,

 First Church accepts donations of **stock**, as well as donations from **IRA accounts**, and welcomes **legacy gifts**.



~Pastor Jeremy

HOW TO SET UP YOUR 2024 GIVING

Mail your Pledge Card to:
 First United Methodist Church of Seattle
 Attn: Stewardship
 P.O Box 19596
 Seattle, WA 98109

Once you've completed the online or paper pledge card, you'll have the opportunity to:

1. Set up your own online giving through our website.
2. Set up a personal login that you can use to update your giving at any time.



OR set up your pledge online:
www.firstchurchseattle.org/give

Note: Recurring gifts will not be assigned an end date. You may update or end your gift at any time by logging onto your giving account, or contacting us.