

Dear Community Church family,

Warm greetings as we begin this holiday season, our 70th as the Community Congregational Church of Short Hills!

It has been really illuminating to celebrate the 70th anniversary this year. I have loved seeing all the old photos, hearing about the Sunday School in the basement, and the couples' dinners. The stories about the trips are my favorite! As a relatively new member of the church (we moved to Short Hills 6 years ago), it was heartwarming to learn about the history we had joined.

It reminded me of my college reunions, one of my favorite events every 5 years. I love meeting the other alumnae - both the more experienced ones and those that have just graduated. In a similar way, it shows you the myriad of ways your life can be built. And even more critically, the reunions showcase the strength of the community that exists around you, even if you don't think about it every day.

This is also true for the church - the community is always here for us. It may be more obvious on the major milestones like baptisms, weddings and memorial services, but it is also here every day for worship, Bible study, dinners and Sunday School. It is so meaningful to me that this community is strong enough to be 70 years old. But I also realize that it means we need to ensure that the church is here for the next 70 years.

For our 70th anniversary, we are structuring the giving campaign a little bit differently with three opportunities to support our church.

First, please give to support our daily ministry. These funds help us **pay our daily operating expenses**. And unfortunately, the church hasn't been immune to the increased costs felt around the world.

Then, taking a page from our colleges, we are asking for **gifts to our endowment**. Help us make sure that CCC is around for the next 70 years.

Also, please consider **including the Church in your will**. Bequests are opportunities for your legacy to continue.

Thank you for your continued support of Community Church. I'm hopeful that with this 70th anniversary campaign, we can help fortify our special church and community for the next 70 years.

With grace,
Colleen Sellers DeLorenzo

Fund our 2024 Operating Budget

Also please consider:

- Contributing to our Endowment
- Including our church in your will

Celebrating Past & Present
Consecrating Future Days