

The purpose for our Stewardship Moments is to highlight key First Church program areas. Hopefully, you've been watching each week as Laura Slocum adds a vital new piece to the large puzzle in the Meeting House that, when completed, will paint a vivid portrait of First Church. The hope is that we all will be inspired to make significant pledges to support First Church with our time, talent, and treasure throughout 2018. (By the way, "treasure" is "church-speak" for our financial support!)

The Stewardship Moment for October 1 highlighted the *worship* and *ministry* areas of our congregation's life.

How many of you consider yourself to be a *minister* engaged in Christian ministry? The truth is ALL of us are ministers; every baptized Christian is a "minister." Each of us has important work to do for God, personally and professionally. Quite simply, our "ministry" is how we put our faith into action.

This past Sunday, we used the following litany to celebrate the wide variety of our First Church ministries. Since *worship* was also a prime focus for the Stewardship Moment, the litany begins with worship. At First Church, we gather for worship each Sunday, and on many other special occasions, in order to remind ourselves of God's powerful presence in our lives: God is still speaking; God is still working. Our worship services are opportunities to be inspired, encouraged and equipped for our individual ministries; the ministry we carry out when we leave worship.

Some of you put your faith into action by serving as ushers and greeters, acolytes and communion stewards, parking lot attendants and liturgists, this is your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

Some of you put your faith into action by singing in the Finney Choir or the children's choir, or playing in the bell choir, or using your instrumental talent to make our worship services even more special; that is your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

Some of you put your faith into action by teaching in Sunday School, public or private schools, vocational schools, Oberlin College, LCCC, and other institutions of higher learning; that's your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

Some of you put your faith into action by working in a medical profession, a non-profit social service, or other caring profession; that's your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

Some of you, David and Brandy, for example, but also a number of you who are retired clergy, put our faith into action through a professional Christian vocation; that's your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

Some of you put your faith into action by being a good friend at school or a good neighbor in your neighborhood, volunteering for IHN, participating in peace marches, and serving on church committees; that is your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

Some of you put your faith into action by serving on City Council or the school board, or other social service board; that's your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

Some of you put your faith into action by encouraging us to be more environmentally aware and responsible; that's your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

And, of course, many of you put your faith into action in creative combinations of all of these ways, that is your ministry: **We are all ministers.**

ALL of us *are* ministers! Because of us, First Church's ministry is wide and multi-faceted and touches countless lives with God's love. Thank you for your ministry.