



First Parish in Bedford CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2026

It's Our Turn

Legacy • Community & Inclusion • Sustainability

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Pledging Thoughts - *It's Our Turn*

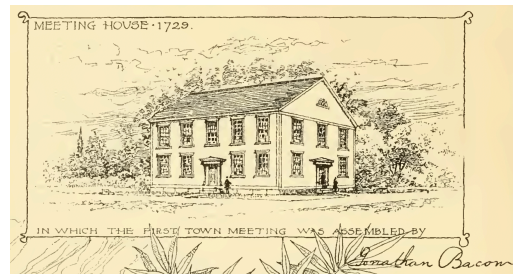
On February 8th, the congregation gave unanimous support to embark on a Capital Campaign to address some of the infrastructure needs of our 300-year-old home.

We have spent the last year explaining the needs, the tradeoffs, and our place in history as caretakers of this community. It's clear the congregation treasures our home and is ready to play a big role as caretakers.

The needs are defined. The costs are understood. The next part of the plan is to secure the pledges that will fund the project.

Looking Back at Capital Campaigns in the Past - *Their Turn*

The first Capital Campaign started soon after the original building was built in 1729. The original building cost £480. The original building was little more than a shell to keep the rain out. At that first town meeting, the congregation approved £40 to make some improvements and hire a minister.



In 1731 funds were allocated to hire a person to sweep the building 6 times a year.

A bell was bought in 1753 and rang on April 19th, 1775, the same bell that needed to be replaced by an overexuberant celebration at the end of the Civil War.

Another campaign involved building a new church in 1815 (our current building). Other past campaigns to improve our home included heating, windows, additions, and more. In other words, maintaining our church has a long history, as our theme indicates, *It our turn*. Specifics about the campaign: [It's Our Turn Webpage](#)

Participation is Key - *It's Your Turn*

We're off to a great start with the campaign, with early pledges leading the way. The church obviously means a lot to so many of you. Our community works because we all pull together. It's also great to see people embracing the "It's Our Turn" theme. We really are just the current caregivers of this institution.

So far, 22% of the congregation has made a pledge toward the campaign. The generosity is really amazing. We're getting close to our goal, but we still need your help. The community works best when everyone is involved. We would love to see 100% participation from the congregation.

What Should I Pledge?

Pledging amounts are really a personal decision. Our consultants suggest that 2 to 3 times your annual pledge is a good place to start. Remember, the pledge can be paid out over 3 years. We have a lot to accomplish and we hope you will be as generous as you can be.

As we said, what you pledge is up to you; being generous is really helpful, Just as important is that you participate

Does this count towards the Annual Stewardship campaign?

No, this is in addition to the annual pledge drive. The Capital Campaign is intended to address big-ticket items that occasionally arise. The annual pledge keeps the staff paid, the lights on, and ... the coffee brewing.

Are there ways to pledge that can help with my taxes?

Yes, we will write more about this in the future. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask. There are ways, through stock transfers, Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), there are ways to donate with pre-taxed dollars. More information to come.

Pledge online: <https://uubedford.org/capital-campaign/its-our-turn/>

Thank you

Capital Campaign Committee: *Peter Cho, Jennifer McClain, Gene Kalb, Tom Flannery, Bob Dorer, Joan Bowen, Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger*