



Turner Photography

Together, we can be...

REACHING IN

REACHING OUT

REACHING UP!

2014 STEWARDSHIP OUTREACH

FOLLEN COMMUNITY CHURCH

From the very beginning, there was one thing that stood out to me about Follen: the youth. Year after year, we see the young people of Follen standing and speaking confidently before the congregation, showcasing their talents in the operetta, giving praises to FUUY, traveling to New Orleans, and participating in many other mind-opening experiences. I belong to Follen because I want my children to grow into those confident Follen youth. With Claire having young children of her own, I believe it to be a particularly exciting time for young families to work together and ensure that our youth can continue to flourish in this ever changing world.

Trapper Markelz

Dear Follen, Our church exists only because, each year, we collectively *will it to exist*. We do so by making a pledge to continue what we have as a community of faith—and what we have is something rare. Follen is a place where our love of music, fellowship, spirituality, and social justice come together. We all love the quiet beauty of our sanctuary, and we all reach in towards each other to keep what we have in place.



A good church is a launching pad for everything from community service projects to small groups. It's where we come together to pray, sing, celebrate, and mourn. At Follen, we gather our collective strength to reach out and up, and make the world a better place. Thank you for your generosity—it really matters.

In faith, hope, and love,
Rev. Claire Feingold Thoryn

Why We Give To and Love Follen

Sheila Combs: We support Follen financially because the church has given so much to us and our children (ages 11, 9, and 6). The RE program, youth and junior choirs, and loving community have provided our family with much sustenance and grace over the years, and we greatly appreciate the work individuals are doing in the church and out in the community to make the world a better place for all. We love Follen!

Anne Grady: I have come to Follen for many years, inspired by the wonderful architecture, superb music, and community that shares my spiritual beliefs. I really bonded with the church just this year, however, when I volunteered to lead the Gun Violence Prevention Group and found myself among people who are as passionate about social justice as I am. George and I give as much as we can, in part so young families can benefit from what Follen has to offer.

Colleen McDonald: I give Follen what I can of time and money—and all of my heart. In return I have been rewarded with meaningful work, multigenerational friendships, and a community that supports and affirms my family.

Mark Metzger: Follen calls on all of us to give as we can of our time, our talent and our treasure to keep it a vibrant part of our lives. It's easy to see the vast amounts of time people put in and their impressive talents, but our financial support is just as important in keeping the church a thriving community with an extraordinary impact, inside and outside its eight walls. It's one more thing we all do together.

Erin Malone: Follen is a nurturing community where I can explore faith, form new friendships, enjoy great music, participate in social activism, and share my joys, sorrows, and concerns honestly. That is why I give.

Joe Turner: I see Follen providing a wide variety of stimulating programs, activities, and events year round, and members willingly stepping up to leadership roles. I feel the spirituality and pastoral care of Claire, our new minister. For these, and many other reasons, I am happy to contribute my time and financial resources to ensure the success of this church and the benefits it brings to its members and the community.

Our Future Has Arrived

The last few years have brought dramatic change to Follen. When our beloved minister retired after serving our community for 18 years, a pair of energetic and insightful interim co-ministers stepped in to guide us for the next two. Meanwhile, an astute lay team helped us to define ourselves, our present needs, and our future plans. An outstanding search committee led us to Rev. Claire Feingold Thoryn, a talented minister whose values and dreams interlace with our own. That chapter has ended, and we now gather together to begin the next: building a future that reflects our principles and potential.

Consider, for a moment, all that Follen offers not only to us individually, but also to our spiritual community and the wider world. Our 2014 stewardship drive gives each of us the opportunity to support Follen in return.

Reaching In, Reaching Out, Reaching Up!

Through our pledges we are...

Reaching in to our heart connection with Follen and the wellsprings of our memories and commitments.

Reaching out to the wider world to advance social justice and our own awareness and growth.

Reaching up to make our shared dreams real.

If we give as generously as we are able and as a congregation increase the total amount pledged by 10% or more, we can achieve three specific goals.

“Right-Sizing” for Staff. Prior to calling Rev. Claire, as a congregation we “right sized” ministerial pay and benefits so that we would be able to attract the best candidates. Now, as recommended by Program Council, it is time—past time, really—to do the same for the rest of our staff and right size their compensation, too. This would demonstrate our deep appreciation for their talents and dedicated hard work, support retention, and, as staff transition occurs, allow us to attract the talent we want. Let’s reach in and do right.

Supporting Follen’s Commitment to Social Justice. Follen’s social justice activities are local, national, and international in scope. A successful campaign will make it possible to advance the social justice goals of our current five-year plan, the sentiments expressed in our congregation-wide survey, and our longstanding passion for helping to make the world a better place. Just as we want to do right by our staff here, we want to do right beyond our walls. Standing up for and with those enduring hardship, oppression, and injustice is a big part of Follen’s identity and what attracts so many to our community. Let’s reach out and do even more to advance peace and justice.

Continuing Follen’s Role as a Teaching Congregation. Follen has a long tradition of ministerial interns and a great track record as a teaching congregation. Past ministerial

interns have helped us to thrive and, after they left us, brought part of the Follen message to the broader UU world. With all the current enthusiasm—and increased attendance at services and participation in our programs—a ministerial intern will help support the Follen community. Rev. Claire is enthusiastic about this possibility. Let’s return to the best of our tradition as a teaching congregation and carry it into the future. Let’s reach up and make this dream real.

A Snapshot of Pledging at Follen

Even though 2013 was a record-breaking year, with \$409,000 pledged, we need to raise \$451,000 to achieve our goals of reaching in, up, and out. For a sustainable and healthy financial future, we want to raise about 80% of the annual budget from pledges, because most of the rest depends on more fluid, less reliable, sources: rental income and fundraisers like the East Village Fair, selling trees, and the Goods and Services Auction. The congregation’s confidential pledges are Follen’s financial bedrock.

What We All Need to Do

We all can pledge as generously as possible! As in the past, our church leaders on Program Council and Parish Board—as well as members of the Stewardship Committee—have pledged early and increased their pledge total. It’s a great start... will you join them? We all have varying resources and priorities, but if you can, please pledge more than ever. When you do, Follen will be able to reach in, out, and up!

Thank you for helping Follen reach for its fullest potential.



Another way to give

Follen’s Legacy Society is composed of members and friends of our community who have chosen to include Follen in their estate planning. If you have been thinking about ways to do this please feel free to discuss this with your visiting steward, and we will make information and resources available to you.