



Spring 2024

Dear friend of United Church of Ludlow,

The family of Christians at the United Church of Ludlow know that at some time in the past, the church was there for you or your family at a time of need. The church has been serving the people of Ludlow and the surrounding area for well over 100 years, providing spiritual leadership. For you, this may have been a place of worship, a place where both adults and children can learn about the great love of our God and his son, Jesus Christ. It may have been a place for family and friends to gather to celebrate a marriage, a baptism, or maybe to celebrate the life of someone who has passed on to be with our Lord in Heaven. The church has also been a place that has been used by the community for holding meetings, concerts, community dinners, and many other occasions. Whatever your ties, we continue to be here for the people of Ludlow.

The United Church is now in need of some assistance from this community. The church needs its historical bell fixed! Due to age, we have been unable to safely ring the bell. We also want to be true to our newly approved mission of “striving to live God’s message of inclusive love through Jesus Christ in our community, nation, and world” by making it easier for those with hearing issues to fully participate in the life of the church, and we would also like to complete the foundation of our recently added handicap addition which provides easy access to the building. Therefore, we have launched a special appeal to raise funds for these upgrades.

We’re calling it *Ring Out Love!*

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to:

1. Repair the historic church bell, so that we can again call the community to services on Sunday mornings with a joyful pealing from the original tower, and let its special sound ring out to celebrate community, national and world events.
2. Upgrade the aging PA/music system in the Sanctuary to enhance the sound during services, improve Zoom audio for remote attendees, and provide hearing assistance for those impaired.

3. Finish the foundation of the disabled entrance at the rear of the church to match the original stone.

We cannot do this alone. Can you help us reach this goal and allow us to accomplish these vital projects? Working together with us will inspire growth within our church and nurture our involvement in the community, as we plan to direct 10% of the funds raised to our church mission. We are extending our efforts into the community, educating the public about the support we provide year-round, and inviting them to a *Ring Out Love!* Kick-off on Sunday, April 28, featuring food, drinks, stories about the bell's history, and more. Watch for details!

We have asked our members and regular supporters to prayerfully consider making a donation to the cause. We realize that we are a financially diverse congregation, and everyone has a different ability to give. If we examine in our hearts what God has provided us, and consider what we might gratefully return to God, we can each make an appropriate offering that will help to make this project a success and, in turn, continue to be a beacon of love in our community. No contribution is too small. Not sure how to give? Attached is a donation form providing options. Please complete the form and return it to United Church of Ludlow, either in person at one of our services at 10am Sunday mornings or sending your response to: *Ring Out Love* Campaign, C/O Anne Oakes, Receiver of Offerings, 145 Merrill Rd., Ludlow, VT 05149.

The Church Council is grateful for all the financial support our members and friends have provided over the years to enable the United Church of Ludlow to be a source of spiritual leadership in our community, and a welcoming place for residents and visitors to gather. Please consider making a generous donation for these vital projects so we can continue to ring out love in this way.

Thank you and God bless,

*Your "Ring Out Love" Capital Funds Drive Committee*

*Dean Alexander  
Bret Harlow  
Bob Malecki*

*Laura Creaser  
Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt*

*P.S. When we reach our goal and the bell is repaired, we'll celebrate together and ring the bell – and thanks to our audio improvements, everyone will be able to enjoy its joyful noise!*