

## It's Time for Us to Embrace the Future and *"Step Up"....*

"Generous Giving is a Joyous Opportunity, not a Burdened Obligation"

We – the First Congregational Church of Branford – are constantly striving to maintain and enhance our commitments to Outreach in our community and the world, and to the Stewardship of our Church's Future through our many Worship, Music and Christian Education programs, the upkeep of our facilities, and especially to our Youth ministries and programs.

We can all help to advance these goals by increasing our pledges. As an example of how we can accomplish this, please take a few minutes to review the staircase shown on the back of this page. This illustrates our levels of pledging for the current year.

If each of us were to increase our pledge to at least the beginning of the next step, the Church's total pledge income would increase substantially. Those of us who are new or haven't pledged in the past can take a First Step, by committing to the step on the staircase that is appropriate for us at this time.

### What can this increase mean?

We can start by addressing some of the goals that we have been trying to meet in recent years, including:

- modest raises for our full-time staff for the first time in 5 years
- more funds available for maintaining and repairing our Church buildings
- renewed investment in our Youth ministries and programs - our ultimate effort to "Embrace our Future"
- restoration of prior reductions to local outreach through our Missions board

All of us are part of a faith community that has thrived because of the stewardship of those who have gone before us. It is our turn to serve as the stewards to the next generation.

Let us respond to the challenges and the opportunities that we face by taking that *Step Up* toward the future.

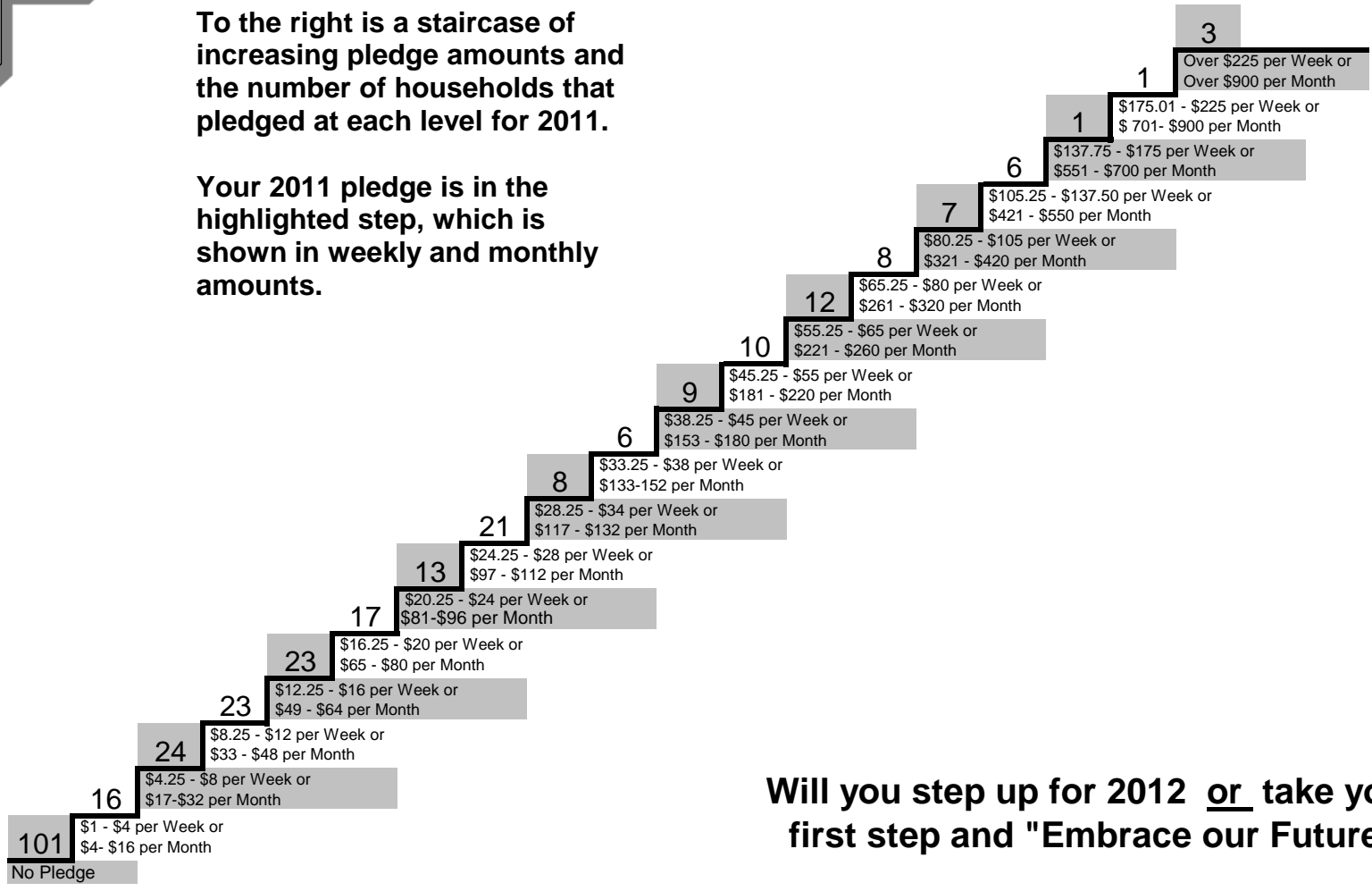
Thank You for your continued support.

Your Stewardship Board.

# First Congregational Church of Branford

To the right is a staircase of increasing pledge amounts and the number of households that pledged at each level for 2011.

Your 2011 pledge is in the highlighted step, which is shown in weekly and monthly amounts.



Will you step up for 2012 or take your first step and "Embrace our Future"