

Your Talent is God's gift to you.
What you do with it is your gift back to God.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul compares individuals in the body of Christ, the Church, to different parts of the body. Even though each part serves a different purpose and different function, all are important in the whole and are needed for the body to function properly. We all have been given talents, they all are different but each one serves a purpose for the glory and service of God.

Every Gift/Talent/Capability is important to the life of the body, the church. 1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. These talents and gifts are not given to us just for our own use, but are

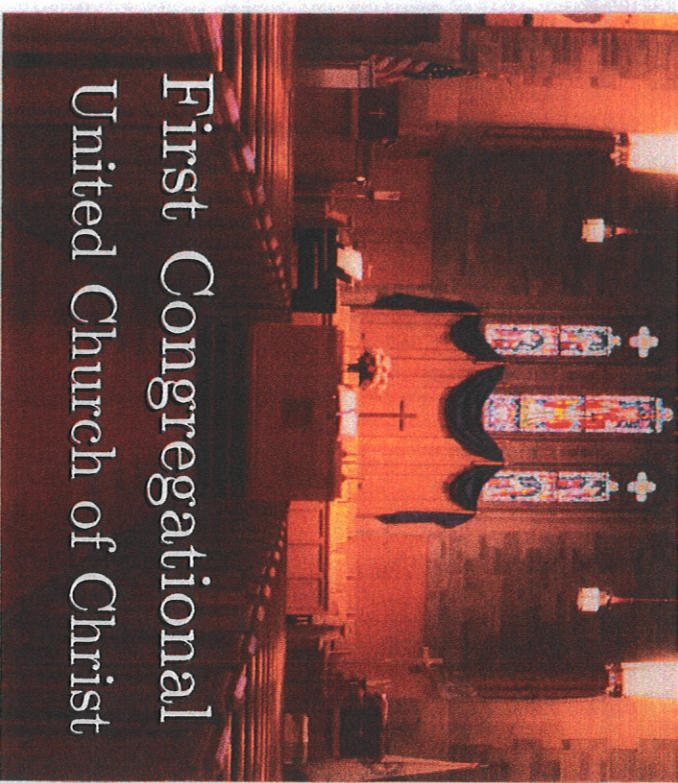
given to us for the enrichment of the lives of others in order for us to serve God better. Christ asks us to do His works in our community and church.

Leo Buscaglia

I am Deborah Butler and maybe my spiritual gifts or talents include sharing what this church means to me with you today. This church and its members mean family, comfort, peace, clarity, centering, focus, challenge, growth, spiritual awakening. This church is where I find the Spirit of God, living and breathing in everyone's heart, mind and soul. I cannot sit idly by and not be involved. Involvement in this congregation is ingrained in my soul. Sometimes it is very difficult for me because my body is not able to keep up with my mind, heart and soul. I have been part of this congregation since the early 1980's. Yes, I have left for periods of time, but God's gentle guidance and working through others has always brought me back. I believe that is because this is my spiritual home and God has a plan for me here.

"I am only one, but I am one; I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do I ought to do, and what I ought to do, by God's grace, I will do."

Edward Everett Hale



First Congregational United Church of Christ

What is

"STEWARDSHIP"

RECOGNIZING THAT EVERYTHING
WE HAVE AND EVERYTHING WE ARE
IS A GIFT FROM GOD, AND BEING
GRATEFUL AND GENEROUS WITH
THOSE THINGS.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS THE
PRACTICE OF MANAGING
EVERYTHING
WE HAVE-
OUR TALENTS, TIME, MONEY
RELATIONSHIPS,
HEALTH, ETC.