

The Tower Restoration

It would be difficult to imagine not having First Church at the top of Library Hill and just as difficult to imagine no bell tower as the focal point of this beautiful Romanesque Revival granite structure.

Thousands viewing the tower, especially during the Holiday Season at night with the lit wreath, find inspiration and hope as they marvel at the beauty of the building. We are blessed that generations before us had the vision and generosity to enable construction of this building with the joyful music of the chimes played each Sunday and on special occasions.

Now, we have the opportunity to ensure that future generations will enjoy the music of the chimes and beauty of the bell tower.

To whom much is given, much is required.
Luke 12:48

Project Funding

The year 2020 and 2021 work is proceeding based on generous donations already received, as shown in the table.

Year	Donations Received	Amount Needed
2020	\$45,000	\$150,000 (for 2020 & 2021)
2021	\$91,000	
2022		\$71,000
2023		\$95,000
	Contingency:	\$24,000
	TOTALS:	\$340,000

NOTE: Grant applications are in progress. This brochure will be updated as dollar amounts change during the project.

The year 2022 and 2023 work is not yet funded. If you would like to contribute, checks can be made out to **"The First Church"** with "Tower Restoration Fund" in the memo line and delivered or mailed to:

The First Church
Attn: Dianne Smigliani
1 Concord Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Please include a note if your donation is made in memory or honor of a loved one.

Total amounts pledged can be paid over multiple years for tax purposes. First Church is a charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

Questions: Please call the church office at **(603) 882-4861** and request a member of Property Management contact you.



Tower Restoration Project

Mission - Ministry - Music

Constructed in 1893, the beautiful granite First Church is a historic New England landmark. The 118-foot bell tower is the focal point and houses bells exhibited and played at the Chicago World's Exhibition in 1893. Arrangements were made for First Church to purchase ten bells, with agreement for the manufacture of five additional bells. The "Chime of Fifteen" was named the Mary P. Nutt Memorial Chime in recognition of her purchase of the chimes for the church.

The First Church, UCC
 1 Concord Street
 Nashua, NH 03064
 (603) 882-4861

The largest bell weighs 4,500 pounds and the total of all bells is 20,000 pounds. For nearly 130 years the bell tower has weathered many New England storms and has stood as a pillar of hope and inspiration as our community dealt with many national and world events.



Now, the tower needs our help. Assessment by the firm of Criteriu-Bennett Engineers has revealed that the toll of age and weather on structural components needs to be addressed to prevent further damage.

The total tower restoration project is planned in phases, starting in 2020 with completion in 2023. Work includes stopping water infiltration, repairing failed brick walls, slate roof, exterior masonry, and chime frame, and replacing bell clappers. Work and cost of each phase are as follows:

2020:

Repair stained glass windows

* **Condition:** Defective/missing glazing, deteriorated lead joints and water infiltration around frames.

Original 23 windows and frames removed in October 2020 by Serpentino Stained Glass.

* **Work:** Repair leaded glass, replace/repair rotted frame and sash components, apply architectural caulk and install aluminum sash protectors. Windows will be reinstalled in spring of 2021.

* **Cost:** \$70,000



2021:

Repair, repoint and caulk masonry above bell deck

* **Condition:** Interior brick tower (mostly original bricks) has eroded mortar joints and some brick cracking where water has penetrated. Wet bricks fail due to freeze/thaw cycles.

* **Work:** Replace Portland mortar with lime mortar to allow moisture to wick through mortar and not the bricks.

* **Cost:** \$80,000



2022:

Repair spire slate roof

* **Condition:** Some shingles attached by only one nail and some slates have shifted.

* **Work:** Align, secure and replace slates.

* **Cost:** \$31,000

Repoint/caulk exterior upper tower below belfry

* **Condition:** Possible movement of granite window jams due to failed brick. Silicone caulk seams have allowed water infiltration.

* **Work:** Remove silicone caulk and replace with architectural caulk.

* **Cost:** \$40,000

2023:

Interior brickwork/repoint Upper tower below belfry

* **Condition:** Water infiltration, failed bricks and possible shifting of structures.

* **Work:** Remove silicone caulk and replace with architectural caulk. Remove large wooden panel, reconstruct failed brickwork. Add laser measurement points to detect future movement.

* **Cost:** \$54,000



Restore chimes, clappers and playing system

* **Condition:** Distorted ring tones due to pitted clappers, timber support rot and failing paint on support frames.

* **Work:** Cast new clappers, repair/paint frame and add chime ringer springs.

* **Cost:** \$41,000