



Your Generosity Impacts Lives

February 1, 2024

Dear Congregant,

Thank you for all the ways you support the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon, including the gifts of your presence, volunteer time, unique talents as well as your financial gifts. Your pledges totaling almost \$500,000 last year are an affirmation that Our Love Impacts Lives. Your generosity makes our community possible and helps us live out Unitarian Universalism in the world.

Your giving directly upholds our core values, which are the bedrock of our Fellowship. The Fellowship simply could not thrive without the financial assistance from supporters like you. **With this message, we are asking you to renew or begin supporting our fellowship by making a generous pledge to our annual fundraising initiative.**

Last year, 235 individual UUs and families pledged just under \$500,000 to our annual pledge campaign, a remarkable achievement. This represented a \$40,000 increase, almost 9% over the prior year! Gifts supported dozens of programs and activities throughout the year, touching hundreds of lives here in our own fellowship from our youngest to our most senior congregants, as well as lives of those in our community who feel the impact of our programs. Our congregation is very strong thanks to you! Thank you again for your participation.

To give a few examples that illustrate the impact of your generosity, here are some of the programs and activities your giving makes possible:

Our Homeless Outreach Project has surged in the past year with broad participation from our members and friends, making clear that this work is a priority for our congregation. We are in partnership with REACH, Bethlehem Inn, and Family Kitchen. Always wondering what's next, we are hoping to fund an Oasis Village tiny home in Redmond in the spring. Our Safe Parking program has been operational for over a year now and has been providing people with a secure place to sleep during their transition to housing.

Amy Brock, Director of Religious Education, uses budgeted resources to enhance our child and youth Religious Education, including curriculum support, teachers, art supplies, and snacks. Our congregation has prioritized supporting our children and families.

Noreen Halberstadt, co-chair of the Worship Team, reports that our annual budget enables a wide diversity of guest speakers when Rev. Scott is not in the pulpit, such as Rev. Morgan Schmidt, and guest musicians, like Rafe Pearlman.

cont.'

Randy King, Choir Director, offers, "The choir is very effort-intensive, and wouldn't operate without your support!" The choir has grown to over fifty members, and each one of those singers needs sheet music! We now welcome our new Choir Director, David Reeves and want to support his vision of our music ministry.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group (DEIG) will use some of its budgeted funds to leverage broader sources to purchase clean drinking water for Warm Springs, now having raised over \$25,000 since the project began.

We believe living out the mission of UUFCO can help bring healing to individuals and to some of our community challenges. This is where your pledges make a huge difference - we are counting on you!

Some of our priority areas for our 2024 budget are to increase the social justice budget by at least \$4,000, which is currently \$14,000. This number doesn't include what we are able to leverage with Greater Community Collections. We are dedicated to supporting the enhancements recommended by the Safety and Security Team. And of course, we want to continue supporting our beloved staff and their dedication to our fellowship.

Our goal is to raise \$520,000 in pledges in 2024; this represents an increase of 6% in pledge dollars, which will serve the increasing needs of our fellowship as our membership has increased by over 11% this year!

With your continued assistance, reaching these goals is possible! We are asking all congregation members and friends to renew their pledge again this year, and, in light of the ambitious year ahead, to consider increasing personal or family pledges by 5%, 10%, or 15%. Any increase would make our congregation even stronger and would help safeguard our future. If you have never pledged to UUFCO, we ask you to consider making a pledge to support our shared work. Regardless of the amount, your commitment will be deeply appreciated! Please know that your generosity will make a tremendous impact upon countless individuals in our community and in Central Oregon.

Best wishes,



Nathan & Stef Jenkinson
Stewardship Chairs



John McKee
President, Board of Trustees



Rev. Scott Rudolph
Minister

P.S. Thanks again!

HOW TO MAKE A PLEDGE

We invite you to make a pledge using any of these methods:

- Fill out the enclosed pledge card and mail it back to us. Please remember to add a stamp!
- Fill out the enclosed pledge card and place it in the Kiosk at the fellowship any time.
- Pledge online at www.uufco.org/pledge.
- Email your pledge to bookkeeper@uufco.org.
- Phone the fellowship and speak with Leora Mauck, Administrator/Bookkeeper, at 541-385-3908.

PLEDGING FAQs

Where does my pledge go?

Your pledge supports all of the work of this fellowship, including our programs and the staff who support them. Our annual budget is divided into five main categories as shown in this pie chart.

What's the difference between a pledge and an offering?

Offerings are donations of money that benefit the work of this fellowship. Pledges are your statement of how much you intend to donate during the next fiscal year, so that the fellowship can create an accurate budget.

When do I pay my pledge?

The pledge you make today will be paid during the year between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Many choose to pay their pledge on a monthly schedule. Others prefer to complete their pledge all at once.

Why pledge in February if I don't pay on it until July?

Your pledge allows the Board of Trustees enough time to create a budget before our fiscal year begins. The Board of Trustees begins the budgeting process in mid-March and finalizes the budget at their May meeting.

Pledge year, fiscal year, calendar year, tax year... I'm so confused!

Our fiscal year begins on July 1st. Some organizations call this the church year, church fiscal year, or even pledge year. **The calendar year or tax year begins on January 1st.** We issue tax statements based on the calendar year. This means your tax statement may not always match your pledge statement.

How much should I pledge?

Your pledge can be for any amount you choose. We ask that you reflect on your commitment to UUFco and our work in the world; then choose an amount that feels right to you. The UUA Fair Giving Guide can be a great place to start. Find it at www.uufco.org/pledge.

Is my pledge confidential?

Yes, your pledge can only be accessed by the treasurer, bookkeeper, and minister so that we may properly assist you.

Questions about the campaign or goal? Ask Nathan & Stef Jenkinson, Stewardship Chairs (stewardship@uufco.org).

Other questions? Ask Mark Hickman, Treasurer (finance@uufco.org), Leora Mauck, Administrator/Bookkeeper (bookkeeper@uufco.org), or Rev. Scott Rudolph, Minister (minister@uufco.org).

