




A Home for Hope

2025 Annual Pledge Drive



Unitarian Universalism matters. UU Schenectady is a congregation where we build beloved community, honor diversity, strive towards equity, work together for justice, respect pluralism, are open to transformation, and recognize our interdependence, all with Love at the Center.

It's Stewardship Season, which means we need your financial generosity to be as great and as heartfelt as it can be. The Board has set a goal of \$490,000, and the Stewardship Team hopes we can far exceed that! Will you make your first pledge? Will you consider increasing last year's pledge? Turn this page over to learn more about this year's campaign, **A Home for Hope**. We need your pledge for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year to help sustain our spiritual home. If finances are too tight to pledge this year, contact the co-ministers to request a waiver. There are many ways to be a vital part of this congregation.








"To thrive, hope requires a home, a sustaining structure of community, meaning and ritual. Only with such a habitation can hope manifest the spiritual stamina it needs to confront evil."

Rev. Rebecca Parker & Rev. John Buehrens





Take a moment and consider what this congregation means **not only to you but also to others**. What would feel really good to give each week or each month to support and sustain UUSS for generations to come? We need your generosity to be as magnificent and as heartfelt as it can be. Our goal is \$490,000. **We can do this together!**

<h3>How much should I pledge?</h3> <p>This chart is one way to think about your answer.</p> <p>A “pledging unit” is an individual or household who has promised to support our congregation financially. Consider what would feel really good to give.</p> <p><i>Do a little math. Consider an amount per week (x52) or per month (x12).</i></p>		Actual 2024-2025 Pledges <i>per Pledging Unit</i>	Target 2025-26 Pledges What can you pledge to support our Mission & help our congregation thrive ? If you aren’t able to move up now, can you set a multi-year goal to achieve this?
 Red	If you have a job that pays well, a good pension, or income-producing assets, you may be able to pledge Red. Perhaps your mortgage is paid off, your kids are launched, and you now have the pleasure of supporting your spiritual home in this way. Red households currently pledge \$9,000 to \$32,000 .	6 Red group units pledged \$9,000 to \$32,000 Total: \$122,950	We are grateful to those who are able to continue a Red group pledge for UUSS. We encourage at least 4 Magenta pledging units to join those who are pledging and contributing Red. It would make a huge difference!
 Magenta	Magenta is like red, only a little bluer. Magenta means you generally have enough money to meet your needs. You may have kids in college or other obligations that reduce your discretionary income. Magenta households currently pledge \$4,000 - \$8,900 .	26 Magenta group units pledged \$4,000 - \$8,900 Total: \$ 150,117	We are grateful to those who continue a Magenta group pledge. We encourage Magenta folks to raise their pledge at least 7%, if possible. If your financial picture allows it, could you stretch even more and join Red?
 Purple	Purple is a beautiful and mysterious color. Purple may be living on a fixed income or maybe you have income that is up one year and down the next. Purple households currently pledge \$2,000 to \$3,900 .	45 Purple group units pledged \$2,000 to \$3,900 Total: \$119,332	We are grateful to those who are able to continue a Purple pledge, and we hope some Purple pledgers will be able to make 10% increases or more. Raising your pledge helps us move towards our stewardship goal.
 Blue	Blue may live modestly, be paying for daycare, or helping other family members. Blue households currently pledge \$960 to \$1,900 . Some Purple or Magenta households may pledge Bluish — can you consider an increase?	41 Blue group units pledged \$960 to \$1,900 Total: \$50,957	If you are giving what you can, we are grateful. And if you can stretch 12-15% or more to a larger pledge, especially at a time when so many are struggling, UUSS would move towards more sustainability.
 Green	Green does not have a lot of money to spare. Green may be living on a very limited income and/or paying off significant loans or medical debt. We honor that some of you may be giving all you can financially. Green households currently pledge \$100 to \$950 .	72 Green group units pledged \$100 to \$950 Total: \$30,688	Having more than a third of our pledging units here is not sustainable. If you are giving what you can, we hope you can continue. If you could make a larger pledge, please do! It is essential that at least 25 Green pledging units move up to another group.

“If the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice, it is because we accept responsibility to bend it.” C B Beal