



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills

2016-2017 Stewardship Campaign:

Explore Spirituality

Engage Community

Transform the World

Dear Members and Friends of UUCSH:

As we enter into spring, a time of new life and renewed energies, each of us is asked to make a financial pledge to support the growth of our UUCSH religious community. There are many things to consider as you evaluate your personal situation, one of the most important being whether you will be able to commit to a Fair Share pledge. I hope you will also take some time to think about the mission that we have agreed upon for our congregation and what that means for you.

During the past year, there were many conversations about where our congregation has been, where we are now and where we want to be going forward. Out of these conversations came our mission statement: **Explore Spirituality, Engage Community, Transform the World**. Which of these speaks most strongly to you? Perhaps you wish to further expand your own spiritual life – how are the worship services and religious education programs at UUCSH providing guidance and encouragement? Do you look forward to deepening your understanding of your inner self as well as establishing connections with the world around you? Maybe it is our loving community that brings you back time and time again. Do you look forward to seeing old and new friends at coffee hour each week? Have you attended one of the many social events that are organized directly or indirectly by other members? Have there been times when you needed support and found loving hearts and hands reaching out to help? It may be that the most meaningful aspect for you is our small congregation's big impact on the world around us. Perhaps you have volunteered for the Giving Network and have seen how our members change people's lives every single week. Do you enjoy the fun and fellowship of the Sandwich Brigade? Do you feel passionate about the work being done by our Social Action and Green teams?

For many of us, it would be hard to pick just one part of our UUCSH life that means more than all the rest; it is the full range of experiences that really touches us. Fortunately we don't have to pick! Our mission statement accurately reflects how our minister, staff and congregation are working to build a strong foundation for our religious community. We cannot continue in this mission without the support of all members of the community with your time, talents and treasure.

During the next few weeks, you will be contacted by your Visiting Steward. This year you have two ways to submit your pledge. If you wish to meet personally with your Visiting Steward, they will schedule a one-on-one meeting. This will be a time for you to ask questions about the budget or how to submit your pledge. You may also wish to talk about what this congregation means to you and to share any ideas or concerns you may have. The other option is to submit your pledge at the Engage Community Luncheon after the service on Sunday, April 3. The luncheon is a new event that we are adding to the Stewardship Campaign. We hope that many of you find this a convenient opportunity to make your commitment of financial support to the congregation while enjoying food and fellowship.

Your generous support is very important to maintaining the staff and programs that mean so much to all of us. Come grow with us at UUCSH!

Jackie G. White
2016 Stewardship Chair