



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills

2021-22 Stewardship Campaign:

“All of Us Together”

Hello Friends,

It would be an understatement to say this past year was a time of great challenge and change in our communities, in our Congregation, and in our own lives. We've adapted to the challenges of a socially-distanced world, and even learned some new ways to engage with family and friends.

Through all of that, UUCSH has been there for us. Our video-based Sunday services have been more thought-provoking and spiritually nourishing than ever, and allowed more people to participate. With lots of creativity and teamwork, we just succeeded in a 100% virtual Service Auction event. Our Committees and Congregational leadership have stayed active, always thinking ahead for new ways UUCSH can thrive in our changing world. Our 100% plate giveaway has put \$1,200 - \$1,500 every month into local charities at a time when it's needed most. And we're just completing a new warming kitchen renovation that will open up lots of new opportunities for Fellowship Hall. Can you imagine what the coming years will look like when we can come back together in person while leveraging everything we built and learned in the past year?

More than ever, we're reminded that these things, and the many other wonderful things this Congregation does, are made possible with “All of Us Together”; Together in Exploring Spirituality. Together in Engaging Community. Together in Transforming the World. And Together in Giving, by pledging to our annual Stewardship campaign where we raise the money needed to sustain us and our mission. To succeed, we need everyone!

With that in mind, we're starting up a remote-oriented Stewardship campaign on April 11th, finishing on May 9 in time to formulate next year's budget for vote in our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 6.

Our goal in this year's Campaign is to raise enough money to continue giving away 100% of our plate collection to community organizations that align with our values and can amplify our voices. We also want to continue funding our thriving set of ministries and events, and continue our long-standing tradition of compensating our awesome Minister and staff according to UUA Fair compensation guidelines. Can we count on your support?

Enclosed is a complete set of information for this year's Annual Stewardship Campaign, including your personalized pledge form. We're keeping things simple this year. No charts

and graphs. We're asking everyone to consider giving at a fair share level for this area of a minimum of 3.5% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). If you're already giving more than that, we hope you will continue your strong support, and perhaps consider a modest increase to help UUCSH remain strong and vibrant.

We understand that the pandemic did not affect everyone similarly financially. If you were on the positive side, please consider increasing your pledge to offset the impact from those who found themselves on the negative side. All of us together in giving is what makes our Stewardship Campaign a success.

Our Visiting Stewards will be reaching out to everyone to answer questions or set up a canvass meeting by phone or video. And there are lots of ways to turn in your completed pledge form remotely. You can mail it, email it, fill out our on-line form, or make other arrangements with your Visiting Steward. Thank you for your generosity!

As we move forward in fellowship, I wish you peace, joy, and abiding love.

Wynn Schulz,

Stewardship Chair