



**Unitarian Church of  
Montpelier**  
130 Main St, Montpelier VT 05602

*We welcome all  
as we build a loving community  
to nurture each person's spiritual journey,  
serve human need,  
and protect the earth, our home.*

March 20, 2022

Our Annual Pledge Drive is the time when we begin looking forward together towards the church year to come. After two years of “pandemic church,” I am looking forward to building on all we have learned and experienced together to **reconnect, reengage, and emerge with hope** into this next season of shared ministry.

One of the learnings of the past two years that will stay with me is that we need one another to survive and thrive. I think we already knew this, but two years of pandemic life certainly made it even more apparent that **we are inextricably linked** and that **community matters**.

Some of **you have shown up in our community** over the past year by participating in Sunday morning Children’s Chapel or Worship. Some of you have shown up for all ages outdoor gatherings like the river clean up in the fall and the No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant (with goats!) in December. Some of you have shown up in community by baking desserts for Monday lunch or the Thursday evening meal. Some of you have shown up by reaching out with a phone call or a card to a fellow church member in need of loving support during a difficult time.

Another way you have shown up is with your financial contributions to the church. **Over 80% of the income that supports our budget comes from individual contributions** – most of that through pledges.

As we look towards the church year to come, we know that we will be creating something new together – a new way of doing and being church together. **This next season of ministry will build on well-loved traditions with adaptations that are responsive to the evolving needs of our community.** Two years of “pandemic church” has changed us, and we have new skills, passion, and creativity to pool together in collective strength for what lies ahead.

We are, indeed, “emerging with hope.” **Your hopeful generosity will ensure that our congregation has the financial resources needed** to support the staffing, facilities, and programming required to offer innovative ministry in these times.

Thank you for your generous support of this community!

With love and gratitude,

*Rev. Joan*