



Unitarian Church of Montpelier

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*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.*

February 13, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier,

The necessity of community was apparent to us all in the hours and days immediately following this past summer's flood, and has continued to be so in the months that have followed. The Unitarian Church of Montpelier is part of an ecosystem of community institutions that together provide strength and hope in challenging times.

Our religious community is also here as a steady presence, not just in times of crisis, but through the daily and ordinary endeavor of being human. The July flood significantly impacted our ability to fully utilize our church building in support of our mission. Yet, with the generosity of the community's volunteer efforts and the skill and dedication of our staff, we have still been able to carry on with our essential ministries.

Church members come together for weekly reflection, connection, and spiritual nourishment each Sunday. Adult volunteers guide our young ones in cultivating awe and wonder, deepening their Unitarian Universalist identities, and exploring life's big questions. Singers of all backgrounds and abilities join their voices in harmony and build lasting friendships. Small groups gather for deep listening and sharing with tears and laughter. Cooks, servers, and dish washers take part in providing a nourishing meal and community connection.

Our Annual Pledge Drive, **"Transformed by Our Care,"** for the 2024–2025 church year, invites you to actively support our shared ministry through your financial generosity. We are aiming to raise \$382,000 from pledges to support next year's operating budget, an increase of roughly 5% over pledges raised last year.

In the coming church year, the Executive Team hopes to offer all staff members cost of living increases, fill two key staff positions (Sexton and Director of Spiritual Exploration), and restore a Ministerial Intern position. Our budget will also need to include increased costs for utilities and maintenance of our historic building. Finally, we are committed to increasing our contribution to the UUA Annual Program Fund, which was significantly cut in the FY24 budget. One hundred percent of your pledge will support the General Fund budget. Pledge contributions will not go into the Flood Recovery Fund.

I encourage you to utilize the **Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide** to determine a pledge amount that aligns with your commitment to this congregation and your financial capacity. Please give as generously as you can, based on your circumstances, to ensure that we can continue the vitality of our spiritual community.

Thank you for all the ways you give so generously to this community and for making our pledge drive a success!

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Minister