



Unitarian Church of Montpelier
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ucmvt.org

*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.*

Love is Stronger

Pledge Drive: March 15 - April 12

Dear Members and Friends of UCM,

In the past year, the Unitarian Church of Montpelier has played a vital role in our community: we cooked and served meals weekly, we have hosted a nightly emergency shelter, and our youth have gathered mittens and other essentials for our unhoused neighbors. These are acts of love.

In the past year, UCM has also been a place of spiritual nourishment and respite for those overwhelmed by the injustice and violence in our country. We have sung together, listened to each other's joys and concerns, talked about how to sustain our faith, and recommitted ourselves to our values. This, too, is love.

*We are stronger than that, we are kinder than that
We are moving forward, we are not going back
We are stronger than that, we are kinder than that
Love is stronger than that*

"Stronger Than That" by Patti Casey

Multi-generational connection, community partnership, acts of service, inclusivity, and resilience: these are some of the themes that have emerged from the year-long visioning process led by the UCM Governing Board. These are the values we want to sustain.

With our community partners, we are hubs of spiritual respite and moral action. To celebrate our wider communities of care, UCM is organizing **Joy in Motion: A Community Dance & Art Party on April 17**. This party is a chance to dance, laugh, and enjoy ourselves; make friends; learn more about other organizations; and bid on art that reminds us of both the beauty and the joy we share.

To do all of this work, we need a robust and well-funded UCM. Every year, members and friends financially support this ministry through pledging. Pledges comprise approximately 80% of UCM's income.

If you are new to pledging, welcome! This act of care and commitment is vital to our spiritual community. Pledges are self-determined, based on your unique financial circumstances. To help you determine your pledge amount, please review the Giving Guide included in this pledge packet or reach out to any of us on the Stewardship Team (see below).

For those who have been pledging for years, thank you! Your consistent support for UCM is the foundation of our ministry together. This year, our goal is to increase our total pledged amount by three percent. If it is within your capacity, we ask that you raise your pledge by 3-5% This request is driven primarily by rising health care costs and our commitment to work toward fair and equitable compensation for our staff. We are a mixed-income community and not everyone will have the same capacity to increase their pledge. We are deeply grateful for pledges of all amounts.

This year, we have a new Giving Guide. This guide combines some elements of the previous giving guidelines with a new format that encourages folks to reflect on their personal financial situation. Everyone's generosity will look different. Whether or not you choose to follow the pledging recommendations in the enclosed Giving Guide, please take the time to consider it.

Please fill out the pledge remittance envelope or enter your pledge online:
<https://ucmvt.breezechms.com/form/pledgeFY27> by April 12.

With gratitude,

Jeremy Beaudry, Steve Gold, Scott Hess, Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Susan Koch, Ansel Ploog,
Emily Seiffert, Heather Southwell, Katie Spring

P.S. Thank you for supporting UCM's coming year! Join us for *Joy in Motion* on April 17 to celebrate that our love is stronger!