

Message from the Minister



Greetings First Universalist Community!

At times over the course of this year, it is a fun exercise for me to think through what the folks who originally gathered as First Universalist Church in 1846 would have thought of the ways we are gathering today. Worship over computers? Singing hymns to slides and music from your living room? It would have seemed so foreign and strange to them. But here's what would not likely be strange—the fact that we are still gathering, the fact that connection is still central to us, the fact that we need one another and a connection to the sacred to sustain us through difficult times.

When I ponder what we are bringing forward through the ages, I sit in gratitude for the commitments folks have made to financially support our church over the last 175 years. We are inheritors of a building we did not pay for, of a religious community that pre-existed us, of a theology that continues to guide our hearts and minds and spirits that we did not think up ourselves.

To sustain us in the years to come, to ensure that First Universalist is available to others through the generations, we rely on your generosity in the present day. Your gifts in this year's stewardship campaign go towards a church whose presence is vital to our city of Rochester and is becoming more vital to those beyond the limits of our geographical region. Your support makes it possible for us to be a church serving our local community, the country, and the world. We are a church that is beyond our ancestors' wildest dreams and your generosity makes this possible.

With Love and Appreciation,
Rev. Lane

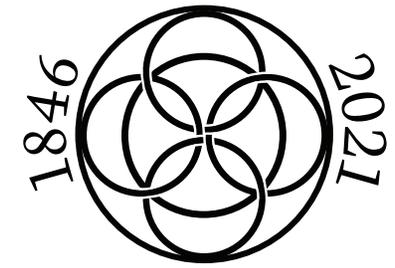
The original building in 1901



Moving forward to 2020



And today!



Message from the Co-chairs

First Universalist church has been a vibrant presence in the city of Rochester for 175 years. If we think 2020 was a difficult year, think of what our forbearers have encountered—wars, epidemics, racial injustice, doctrinal discord, social unrest, sexual discrimination, and more. With focus and determination, First Universalist has pressed “Forward Through the Ages,” meeting each new challenge head-on for nearly two centuries.

Maintaining the “unbroken line” of commitment and caring requires consistent support from each of us. Our annual Stewardship campaign is the primary source of funding for the church. We are a small congregation, so each of us is called upon to do our part, to be as dedicated and generous as we can. We may not be in the church building this year, but it still takes money to maintain the infrastructure and pay our dedicated staff.

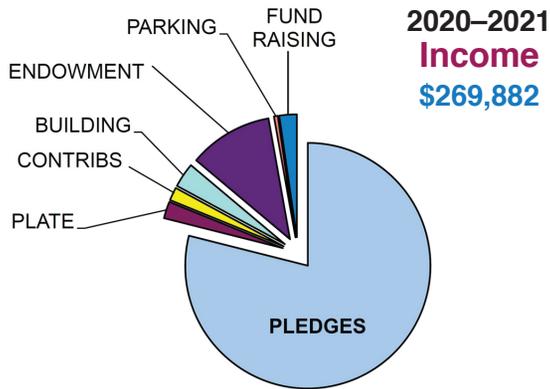
Your pledge represents your financial commitment to the church, to be paid between July 2021 and June 2022. Please return your pledge cards by April 11 so we can plan for the reopening of our beloved, historic sanctuary in 2021. Every pledge, regardless of its size, supports the success of our ministries.

Thank you,
Brian Mumej, Kathi Milch & Jim Milch
2021 Stewardship Co-chairs

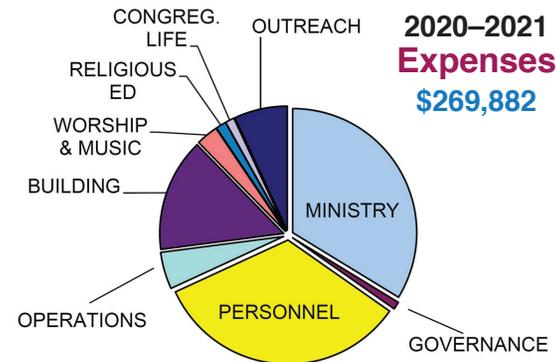
Our Budget

We run an annual budget of about \$270,000
(including salaries, building expenses, and programs).

Where the money comes from—



Where the money goes to—



We need a pledge from every member and friend to support the church budget. This year, we hope to:

*Share our faith in the broader community,
Expand our social justice outreach,
Grow our membership!*

Your donation to First Universalist will help to sustain programs and resources in our vision, such as:

- RAIHN
- Book Group
- Library
- Drop-in Discussions
- Small Group Ministry
- EcoJustice
- Music and Worship
- Family Programs/Nights
- Religious Education
- Cozy Night Suppers
- Coffee Hour
- REACH
- Batavia Backpack Project
- Roc/ACTS
- Midweek Meditations
- Grief Support Group
- Race in a Brave Space
- Congregational Project FIRE
- Jim and Eunice Eckberg Memorial Film Series
- Support for BLM Protest
- Street Medics
- SPARC
- ZOOM Church

Give to support these programs and more!

**We are pledging support for the year
July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022**

Annual Stewardship Drive



*Forward
Through
the Ages*

**First Universalist Church
of Rochester**
150 Clinton Avenue South
Rochester, NY 14604

