

Welcome to the First Universalist Church of Rochester!

Our church is funded primarily through the pledges of our members and friends. We conduct an annual stewardship campaign, asking for a financial commitment from each member or friend of the congregation. This helps us to plan our budget for the fiscal year.

► *Why pledge? Why not just put money in the collection plate each week?*

Plate offerings are welcome and appreciated! However, pledges help us to plan ahead and make long-term commitments. So, for example, a pledge of \$250 helps us more than \$5/week in the collection basket, because we can use that pledge to plan and to budget. Pledges provide about 75% of the funds needed to run the church, while plate offerings account for about 2–3%. Pledges are critical to the church’s ability to operate.

► *How do I decide how much to pledge?*

Our members are diverse in their economic circumstances, and so are their pledges. In a recent year, annual pledges ranged from \$100 to \$16,000. The average pledge is around \$2,000. We suggest calculating your pledge as a percentage of your income, considering the level of commitment to the church as well as your family’s circumstances. You’ll find a giving guide on the back of the pledge card.

► *How do I pay?*

When you make a pledge, you pay during the course of the following fiscal year, July 1– June 30. Most of us spread our payments out to weekly or monthly installments. A \$500 pledge amounts to \$10 weekly, for example.

Most of us pay by check, payable to First Universalist Church, with “pledge” written in the memo line. Checks can be mailed or dropped into the basket on Sunday; or use our bank auto-debit process. If you pay with cash, please use a sealed envelope with your name and “Pledge” written clearly on it. You may also pay your pledge online at uuroc.org. Our collector keeps track of your pledge payments and sends periodic statements for your records and for tax purposes.

► *What if I make a pledge, and then lose my job next year?*

Your pledge is simply your plan. If you make a pledge and then your circumstances change, you can change your plan. Your pledge is not a contract.

► *How confidential is my pledge?*

Pledges are absolutely private. Only the collector and the minister have access to pledge amounts.

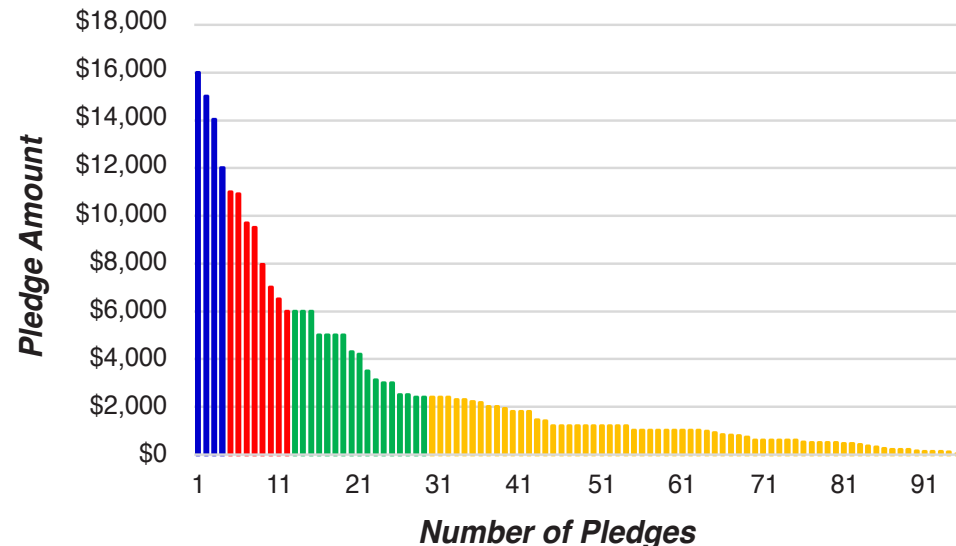
► *I’m ready! How do I make my pledge?*

Fill out your pledge card, and return it to us in person, to the church office, or by mail. During the stewardship campaign, you can pledge online at uuroc.org or by scanning the QR Code below.



Thank you for being a part of our beloved community!

2025–2026 Pledges by Quartile



Each color represents pledges that make up a quarter (quartile) of the church's annual pledge income. Pledges of ALL amounts are an important sign of commitment to the church!



Message from the Minister

Rev. Eileen Casey-Campbell

Dear ones,

Often we think about stewardship drives as the embodiment of our value of generosity. But I wonder if this type of fundraising is more an embodiment of our value of trust.

Our Stewardship Team this year has chosen the theme *Faith is a Forest: Come Help Us Grow*, and I think forests are a great metaphor for the way we take trust in the care of one another during this season. Every living thing in the forest has its own needs and resources; they are not made with equal means. And yet, the forest uses incredible networks of resource-sharing and needs-communication for the thriving of the whole.

As author Richard Powers put it in *The Overstory*, “Networked together underground by countless thousands of miles of living fungal threads, trees feed and heal each other, keep their young and sick alive, pool their resources and metabolizes into community chests...Everything in the forest is the forest.”

So it is with our own resource sharing—when we’re doing it well. Some of us have only a little to give, and we trust that they will give only what they can spare while they accept all the care and love they need. Some of us have more to give, and we trust that they will give until they feel good and receive in the same way. Some of us have so much more than plenty, and we trust that they will turn their abundance into flourishing for the whole of our community.

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I want to tell you, as we begin this season of joining our resources together to be more than their separate parts, I trust you. I trust you to know how much generosity feels good to you. I trust you to lean on your community when you need it and to give toward its thriving when you’re able. I trust that together we will always be enough.

With you,
Rev. Eileen



First Universalist Church of Rochester

150 Clinton Avenue South • Rochester, NY 14604



Stewardship at First Universalist

Supporting Our Mission—

To nurture the spirit and serve the community

First Universalist Church of Rochester