

2024 Pledge Drive

“Today’s Commitment, Tomorrow’s Community”

Dear Members and Friends of UUCR,

“The new church is beautiful, and well equipped to serve the community in a practical way. This new building will mean greatly increased life and efficiency for our church now and in the future. It is a building for us and for our descendants.”

This year marks the 100th anniversary of our church building. The quote above is from 1924, encouraging members to make their annual pledge to support the church budget.

It’s clear that 100 years ago the congregation understood that they had built the new church not just for themselves, but for future generations as well. And a century later, we are still benefiting from their dedication and commitment.

So we have chosen **“Today’s Commitment, Tomorrow’s Community”** as our Pledge Drive theme this year. It is a reminder that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Back in 1924 the congregation made their commitment to the future of our beloved church, and now it is our turn to do the same one hundred years later.

We have been good stewards of all that we have been given. The Governing Board has worked hard over the past few years to get through the pandemic, challenging economic times, staff turnover, and issues with our buildings. And through it all we have kept focused on what’s most important - our mission - to nurture and explore individual spirituality, build a committed and loving community, and help heal the world.

We can be proud of all we have accomplished together. Here are just some of the highlights from the past year:

- Rev. Laura, the Worship Arts Team, the Choir and the Tech Team have continued to provide inspiring, uplifting, stimulating and spiritually nourishing Sunday services – both in-person and online.
- We have hired a creative and enthusiastic new RE Director, Kimberly Redd, and an energetic and efficient new Office Administrator, Angel Carboni.
- There have been many enrichment activities for children, families, and adults.
- Three new Chalice circles are now meeting on a regular basis.
- Several new members and friends have joined us.
- A renovation of Loring’s exterior has been completed, along with several other building projects.
- The Kris Kringle Fair this year was almost back to the pre-pandemic level.

- Ongoing Social Justice activities like providing a monthly meal for the Bread and Roses Soup Kitchen, Undecorate the Tree, supporting local Afghan refugee families, hosting PFLAG Support Meetings, supporting the UU Urban Ministry, figuring out how to respond to the theft of our Black Lives Matter banner, and much more...

Our Goal: \$365,000

The Finance Council has developed a preliminary FY25 budget. In order to balance it we need to raise \$365K in pledges. That's a **10% increase over last year**. It's a real stretch, but **reaching that goal is essential to keeping our finances on a solid footing**.

Here's What We Ask:

- **If you are already pledging:** Please thoughtfully consider increasing your pledge by 10%-20% percent or more. That will help cover those who aren't in a position to make a 10% increase at this time. If 10% is not possible for you, please consider an incremental 5-7% increase to help us keep up with inflation. For a \$2,000 pledge, that would be an increase of \$100 to \$150 per year, or just \$10 to \$15 per month.
- **If you haven't started pledging yet:** Now would be a great time to begin! Knowing how much you plan to contribute during the coming year helps us plan responsibly for the future. So please - pick an amount that works for your budget and make a pledge! For more information about pledging please see our [Pledge Drive FAQ](#).

No money is due now. Please pay your pledge between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

It's Easy - Pledge Online!

We ask that you make your pledge by Commitment Sunday, March 24. You can [submit your pledge online](#) anytime by visiting UUCR's website.

Your pledge is essential to keeping our doors open, our programs running, and our community thriving. Every pledge, large and small, will be gratefully received.

Thank You for Your Support!

Whether you are a long-time member or a newcomer, **making a pledge shows your commitment to our shared values and vision**. Your generosity will help keep UUCR moving forward, so together we can work towards fulfilling our mission during the coming year.

In 1924 the Pledge Committee said: **"The new church is well worth your support. Please support it generously now!"** Their words still ring true today. Please answer their call by submitting your pledge today.

Thank You!

A.J. Heidkamp (Chair), Ryan Sillers, and Tracy Sopchak

2024 Pledge Drive Team