

## Unitarian Church of Sharon Give Together, Grow Together

Once in a while, when there is a critical mass of newcomers attending our worship services, Rev. Jolie offers a class called "New to UU / New to UCS." We cover such topics as Unitarian and Universalist history, what UU's believe, and why Coffee Hour is so darn crucial to our community's wellbeing. At this class, we also talk about what it means to become members of UCS. It might seem like church life is basically unchanged by membership. After all, anyone is welcome to attend worship and participate in most of our events, regardless of if they have officially joined. Of course, becoming a member does confer certain privileges, such as the right to vote in our congregational meetings and eligibility to serve on our Board of Trustees. But membership is about more than voting and serving on the Board. It's about saying to ourselves and each other: this is my place and these are my people. And it's about saying: I want to be part of what it takes to help this community thrive.

Our annual stewardship campaign is another time for us to make such a statement. We show our commitment to our congregation when we pledge our support for its continued operation each year. This place exists only because year after year we say: we want this place to exist. We want to keep building a spiritual home for people of all ages. We want to keep growing in mind and spirit so we may reach out to serve the world. We want to keep sharing what we create here with all who are seeking. And we make it so, by our volunteer efforts, by our honest participation, by our willingness to listen and learn, and by our financial contributions. We give together, we grow together.

Other than some income from the cell tower in our steeple, some dollars raised from rentals and fundraisers, and some money from our invested reserve funds, the vast majority of our budget is funded by the members and friends of this congregation. And so, in order to be able to make our plans each year, our plans to pay our staff fairly and take good care of our building, our plans to run spiritually nourishing programs and be the church we wish to be in the world, we ask our members and friends to make a pledge: to tell us how much they will be able to give in the coming year. By doing this, we keep our promise to be faithful stewards of this house of worship. We keep giving so that we may keep growing, together.

Will you join us and pledge your support to the Unitarian Church of Sharon in 2024?

Yours for the stewardship of this congregation,

Rev. Jolie Olivetti, Minister

Valerie White, President

## Cottage Meetings

Stewardship is about taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow. When we become stewards, we take responsibility and contribute our time, talent, and treasure. No doubt, the Unitarian Church of Sharon is a generous and grateful community. There is joy in giving and it enables us to put our faith into action. There is joy in working together to make our community a more loving place. There is joy in sharing our dreams and our visions, planting seeds for stronger and more resilient tomorrows. Over time, your passions and dreams provide the sustenance upon which our community thrives.

An important part of this year's stewardship campaign will be small group in-person and virtual meetings hosted by the Stewardship Committee so members and friends can share their values and their vision for our community. We urge you to join one of the sessions. Our community consists of amazing people with giant hearts. Your attendance will truly inspire our giving and growing together.

We will ask the following questions:

- Why did you start coming to Church?
- What are you grateful for?
- What are your hopes and dreams for Church?
- How does being part of our congregation make you feel connected to something greater than yourself?

We'll also review the UUA's Fair Share Contribution Guide, which may help you determine an appropriate level of giving.

Please join the Stewardship Committee at one of the following meetings:

- **Sunday, March 10, 11:45 am** (Hybrid: In-Person in the Church Library & Zoom Virtual Library)
- **Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 pm to 8:15 pm** (Zoom Virtual Library)
- **Sunday, March 17, 11:45 am** (Hybrid: In-Person at the Church & Zoom Virtual Sanctuary)

Please RSVP to Peter Raskin at [Stewardship@uusharon.org](mailto:Stewardship@uusharon.org).

For virtual attendance, use the Zoom Link available on the Church's online calendar at [www.uusharon.org/calendar](http://www.uusharon.org/calendar).

Thanks for participating!

## FAIR-SHARE CONTRIBUTING

How much should you pledge? Your contribution reflects both your commitment and your resources. The UUA notes that commitment and provides a guide to giving at a percent of income. They suggest adding all sources of income, then subtracting any large or unusual expenses, like medical or college tuition, to arrive at an adjusted annual income.

**Supporter:** Our congregation is a significant part of your spiritual life that you want to support. Commitment at this level is between 2% and 6% of adjusted annual income.

**Sustainer:** The congregation is your central community and you are committed to supporting its programs and ministry. Your contribution will be between 3% and 7% of adjusted income.

**Visionary:** Your commitment demonstrates the unique importance of the congregation and your spiritual principles. Giving at this level is between 5% and 9% of adjusted income.

**Transformer:** You are deeply committed to this congregation and want to provide fuel for transformation. Your commitment represents 10% of your adjusted income.

## UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

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### Minister:

Rev. Jolie Olivetti

### DRE:

Christine Bulman

### Board of Trustees:

Valerie White, **President**

Christina Raskin, **Vice President**

Courtney Hopkins, **Clerk**

David Nichamoff, **Treasurer**

Rebecca Kinraide

Kim Miller

Jon Slavin

### Stewardship Committee:

Peter Raskin, **Chair**

Fred Bramhall

Susan Olson Drisko

Kathy Farrell

Ker Quinn

Jessica Plumridge

Colleen Tuck

Christina Raskin-**Board Liaison**

## UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024-2025



***GIVE TOGETHER,  
GROW TOGETHER***