

“Ministering to our Future”

We give to a mission we believe in.

The mission of Unitarian Universalism is to transform lives; to nurture the spirit, to help heal the world, and to widen our embrace for those looking for a religious community like ours.

We do that by creating a culture of welcome and inclusion, honoring principle-centered boundaries, and engaging in a personal search for truth and meaning in a community that supports, encourages and challenges us. We also give and gather resources for ministry so that this congregation thrives past our lifetimes.

Now is the time to think about why FUUSM exists, who we are, and what we can become.

Now is the time to talk about FUUSM’s financial life in dollars and cents and what it takes to support this community.

Now is our time to pay forward the enduring legacy we received from those who founded, built, cared for and grew FUUSM.

One purpose of the church is ministering to ourselves.

One purpose of the church is ministering to those who are not yet here, those we don’t yet know; in our own time and in future generations. One purpose is ministering to our future so that those who come after us can be nurtured by this faith we shaped and that they shall live, reshape and pass on.

Rev. Tracey Robinson-Harris
Interim Minister

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough
25 South Main Street
Middleborough, MA 02346

Paying it Forward:



For generations, we’ve been asking church members to make an annual financial commitment to this church. But now we are in an Interim period, preparing for our next settled Minister, and we are going forward with a vision.

Our shared vision is of a church with a strong voice and full-time Ministry, with inspiring worship, religious education and music programs that reflect our values, extensive outreach, a solid, functional building, and a social action program that meets real needs in the community. These are the strands that we will weave into our identity.

This will take our money, our time and our talent. No one will magically turn us into the church we want; it is up to us and our successors to build it. We hope you will pledge at least 3% of your gross income to making our vision solid, real and enduring.

That will enable us to make the commitments that will insure that this church will be here for our children, and their grandchildren.

-Marc MacQueen, Chairman, Stewardship Committee

The Canvass is the annual fund

drive that supports our church and its ministries. We ask you to commit yourselves to giving a regular sum of money to the church, every week or every month, so the church can fulfill our vision of full-time, inspiring Ministry. We ask you to consider pledging 3% or more of your annual income.

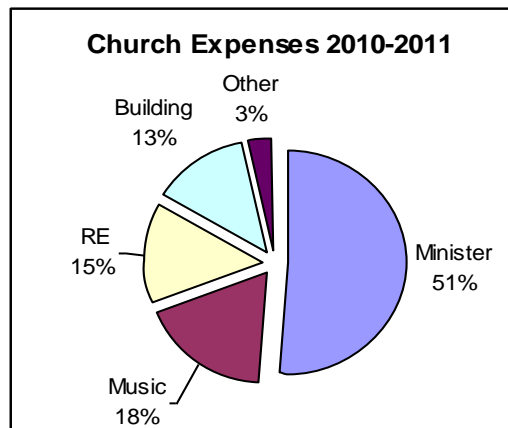
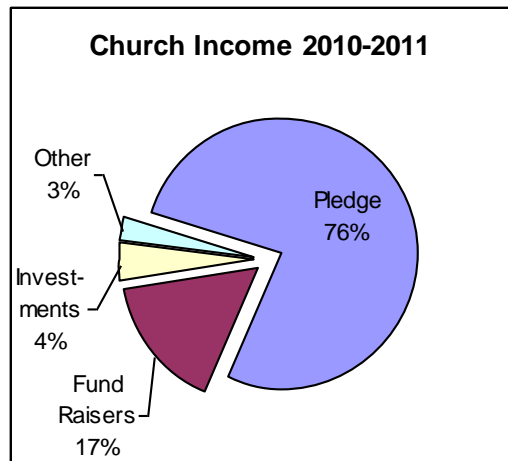
Pledges and other income have supported our Ministries – Worship, Religious Education and Music, and Social Action - as well as staff and office expenses, and maintained our building.

But current pledges won't be enough to fulfill our vision. Good full-time Ministers cost about \$25,000 more per year than we have been paying. We need and want a Minister who shares our vision of what we want this church to become.

We invite everyone to consider pledging 3% or more of their annual income to our church and its future. Not everyone can reach that goal, but we hope everyone will strive to reach it. Many can give more than 3%. We hope those of you who can do so will. We will receive all pledges with gratitude and thanks.

What 3% of Income Looks Like

Family Income	3% of gross	Weekly Pledge
\$30,000	\$900	\$18
\$50,000	\$1500	\$30
\$70,000	\$2100	\$41
\$90,000	\$2700	\$52



Commitment to our Vision

The church leadership has sought to set the pace in terms of giving. The following members of the Stewardship and Parish Committees have agreed to pledge 3% or more of their gross income to the church in the coming year: Dan and Susan Hotchkiss, Marc and Cheryl MacQueen, Elizabeth Gish and Wolfgang Brauner, Andrew and Robin Putney, Jeff and Barbara Stevens, Gene and Gilda Phillips, and Tracey Robinson-Harris. All other members of both committees have agreed to increase their pledge toward the 3% goal. Will you join us in paying it forward?

A Place in the World

What does our church mean to us? What sort of legacy do we wish to leave the world? These are some of the questions we will each consider as we think of ministering to our future.

Our world is such an imperfect place. We see, day in and day out, injustice and hurt. So often we wonder what can we do? What role can we play in healing our world? How can we matter?

We cannot do it all, it is true. But through our church we have the potential to be the change that we long for in this world. We have been given so much and this is our chance to pay it forward – to those among us and to those whom we do not yet know, but who long for something more.

Together we can build a church that reaches out and has space for all who long for a different way in the world. Will you pay forward all that we have been given?

-Elizabeth Gish, President



Monthly Donations to Food Pantry