



Your Pledge  
Could Change  
**Everything**



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**Stewardship 2025-2026**  
First Universalist Society in Franklin



## FAQs for the Stewardship Campaign

### *An FUSF Poem*

*Enter the sanctuary and feel happy, loved,  
at home, peaceful.*

*The people around me watch the birds and  
welcome me.*

*The trees swaying in the wind, growing in  
the spring, losing their leaves in the  
autumn.*

*FUSF is a place to love, laugh, and learn.  
Live life from the front row.*

*Created during Worship Service  
Time for All Ages, Nov. 2024*

#### ***What is a pledge?***

A pledge is a financial commitment to FUSF to be paid starting July 2025 through June 2026. Pledges can be single or multiple payments. Your pledge enables FUSF to manage the operating budget for next year.

#### ***Who should pledge?***

Everyone! Whether you are a member or friend, a pledge helps FUSF continue its work as a spiritual community.

#### ***How do I balance my pledge to FUSF with other causes I support?***

Many of us support several non-profit organizations and issues. Thankfully, many of these causes are supported by thousands of people! FUSF is supported only by us – generous members and friends. For our community to thrive, it is up to us to support it.

#### ***Is it possible to earmark a pledge for a specific purpose?***

As a democratic community, our budgets are created to serve the whole of our work together. All pledges support the entire congregation.

#### ***Are my payments to FUSF tax-deductible?***

To the extent you itemize deductions, yes. Donations to faith communities are the same as donations to any 501c3 charity – fully tax deductible.

#### ***Can I change my pledge if my circumstances change?***

Yes! We understand that things change, especially in these unprecedented times. If you need to adjust your pledge down or up, just contact the Treasurer, and it will be revised.

#### ***Who do I contact with questions?***

Feel free to contact a member of the Stewardship Team by emailing [stewardship@fusf.org](mailto:stewardship@fusf.org). If you prefer, the Treasurer or the Minister are available to answer your questions. We are all happy to help with any questions you have!



**Every Pledge Makes A Difference!  
Your Pledge Could Change Everything!**

*If you are able, please consider increasing your pledge for FY 2025-2026 to enable FUSF to achieve our collective goals. All pledges are gratefully received no matter the amount.*

### FUSF Giving Guide

	Supporter		Sustainer		Visionary		Transformer	
	<i>I am committed to supporting FUSF</i>		<i>I am committed to sustaining FUSF programs</i>		<i>I am committed to expanding FUSF's ministries</i>		<i>I am committed to helping FUSF grow creatively</i>	
Net Monthly Income	% of Income	Monthly Pledge	% of Income	Monthly Pledge	% of Income	Monthly Pledge	% of Income	Monthly Pledge
\$1,000	2%	\$20	3%	\$30	4%	\$40	6%	\$60
\$2,000	2%	\$40	3%	\$60	4%	\$80	6%	\$120
\$3,000	2%	\$60	3%	\$90	4%	120	6%	\$180
\$4,000	3%	\$120	4%	\$160	5%	200	7%	\$280
\$7,500	3%	\$225	4%	\$300	5%	\$375	7%	\$525
\$10,000	3%	\$300	4%	\$400	5%	\$500	7%	\$700
\$15,000	4%	\$600	5%	\$750	6%	\$900	8%	\$1,200
\$25,000	4%	\$1,000	5%	\$1,250	6%	\$1,500	8%	\$2,000

*Once you have decided what to pledge, please either fill out the pledge card online at [FUSF.org](http://FUSF.org) or complete and return the enclosed pledge card to the Office.*

***Thank you for your generosity and support of this beloved community.***

### What does a 16.75% increase look like?

\$1,000 → \$1,168 or + \$14/mo

\$2,000 → \$2,335 or + \$28/mo

\$3,000 → \$3,503 or + \$41/mo

\$5,000 → \$5,838 or +\$70/mo

## Caitlin MacDonald President FUSF Board of Trustees



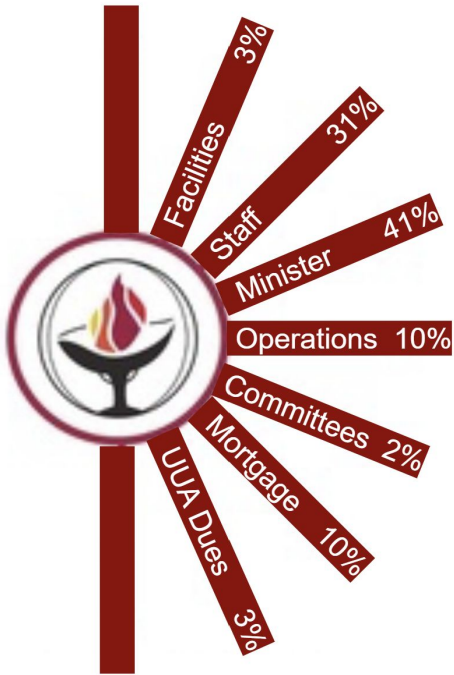
Being a part of FUSF is a journey, unique and special for each person. My journey began with a curious three year old in tow for whom I sought a spiritual education. Soon, FUSF tapped into my love of performing music with others through singing in the choir and playing the trumpet. Later, FUSF supported me through caring for my mother and grieving her death. And now, here I am President of the Board of Trustees, working with a team of great leaders deeply invested in helping FUSF grow.

Our personal journeys define for each of us what makes FUSF an essential part of our lives. I invite you to contemplate your own journey as part of FUSF. Are you just beginning? Have you travelled a long way with many fellow travelers?

Your contribution to our pledge drive this year will not only keep FUSF moving forward, it could change our path dramatically. I invite you to give generously so that we may thrive!

*Caitlin*





93% of the annual operating income for FUSF comes from pledges. (The other 7% is from fundraising, plate collections, and rental income.)

FUSF does NOT receive any other operating income from outside sources.

This is the year to dream big, while putting ourselves on a sound financial footing.

Meeting our pledge goal will allow us to reliably fund our staff from year to year and build our savings for upcoming, necessary projects.

% categories in FY 26 budget

## Stewardship 2025-2026: Your Pledge Could Change *Everything!*



**\$297,125**

2026 Pledge Goal

Overall Pledge Increase

**16.75%**



Current Average Pledge  
**\$2,447**

**\$2,857**

Average Pledge Needed

*We need to build a sustainable future.*



**\$42,668**  
Increased Goal



- Our children and youth are empowered through a nurturing religious education program that teaches our values.
- While worshipping together in a multi-generational community, we explore our faith and make meaning of our lives.

**Your pledge makes all this possible!**

We are endeavoring to hire an inspirational minister who will build upon the good work of Rev. Waring.



- Music deepens our worship experience and inspires us.
- Our lay ministers offer listening in times of need and organize support services like rides and meals.
- Our building is a home of our own where we enjoy fellowship together.



- We are living our values by ensuring equitable compensation for our staff.
- We make positive change in the larger community through our Social Justice work.
- We provide a welcoming community where every individual is invited to bring their authentic self.

