



**First Universalist Society in Franklin**  
*A Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation*

Dear Members and Friends:

Over the past 2.5 years, every congregational conversation has included the idea of growth. This year, your stewardship team's theme is, "Your Pledge Could Change Everything." Part of everything is your ability to grow.

In order to grow, you will have to pay your new minister and your current staff fairly. In order to grow, what you do should reflect what is important to you AND show that you are creating beloved community: think Welcoming Congregation Initiative, Food and Climate Justice, as well as community building Cookie Walks, Puzzle Tournaments and Labyrinth Walks. In order to grow, your building and grounds should reflect Unitarian Universalist values, such as solar panels, adequate insulation, native plants, and a safe, well-lit and clearly marked parking lot.

If each of you are able to reach deep and pledge an amount that reflects how you feel about FUSF and what you receive from this faith community, I promise growth will happen. In fact, it is already happening. And not just in numbers but in spiritual maturity and openness.

As I said in a recent "Briefly with Bev" column, the positive energy and commitment I have seen since my arrival in August of 2022 is palpable. On a recent night at FUSF, there were people in the foyer sharing a vegan potluck and talking about healthy eating. In the Cook Room, a group of men gathered for a newly forming FUSF men's group. And a small working group was busy looking over spreadsheets for a congregational "Meet the Budget" conversation. And this was just another weekday evening at FUSF.

I concluded that column by saying that worship and religious education are important, but "real, deep and sustainable beloved community happens and grows all week long." And this is what will draw your next minister to FUSF. How you have fun, support one another, and engage with the wider community. How you open your doors to your neighbors, how you raise and spend your money, and how you approach and intervene in issues of injustice in Franklin, in Massachusetts, and beyond.

This is my last Stewardship campaign with you. I want to inspire you to find that level of pledging that may be a little stretch for you but is also a pledge that can change everything. I encourage you to read the enclosed brochure carefully. Ask questions if you have them. And as you consider the enclosed pledge card, please be part of the ongoing positive change here at FUSF.

With Love and Peace,

Rev. Bev Waring

Reverend Beverly Waring, Interim Minister ([Minister@fusf.org](mailto:Minister@fusf.org))  
Sara Allegretti, Acting Director of Religious Education ([DRE@FUSF.org](mailto:DRE@FUSF.org))  
Michele Kelly, Music Director ([musicdirector@fusf.org](mailto:musicdirector@fusf.org))  
Joan Tansi, Office Manager ([office@FUSF.org](mailto:office@FUSF.org))