



FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF MADISON



Rev. Kelly J. Crocker,
Minister of Congregational Life



Rev. Roger Bertschausen,
Interim Minister

900 University Bay Drive
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 233-9774
www.fusmadison.org

To our community:

As the pandemic continues to test our hearts and courage, as we continue our search for a new minister to join us this year, and as we navigate new ways of doing familiar things, the First Unitarian Society of Madison remains a vibrant community of seekers and justice-bearers.

Over the last year, the strength of our community rose to the challenges we faced. We adapted to virtual worship services, collaborating and reaching an audience beyond Madison. We initiated new virtual gatherings like our knitting groups, weekly meditations, a pandemic support group and adapted many of our small groups to a virtual format. Our social and environmental justice work continued during a critical election year. We made masks, sent cards, helped each other learn new technology, kept our promises to community partners, and kept our promises to each other.

As we look ahead with hope, we will build on these promises and our commitment to this place. We await the day when we can gather together in our beloved building, work side-by-side for a more just world, share in fellowship over cups of coffee, and welcome a new minister to join us as we start a new chapter of co-ministry together.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign is another way we fulfill our promises to each other and this place. Donations from this annual campaign support nearly 80% of our total operating budget. Your gift goes directly to: supporting our enriching programs for adults and children, supporting our justice work in the community, creating services that reflect our values and appreciation for spiritual, artistic, and intellectual expression, making progress toward compensating our staff fairly, welcoming in our new minister with confidence in our financial health, and maintains the resources necessary for our physical space.

Your gift is more than fulfilling a promise. It's one expression of how we share what this place means to us. It's one of the many ways we care for our community. We recognize that this unusual year has created financial hardships for many, and we encourage you to reach out to us for a confidential conversation on how our community can support you during this time.

Please take a moment to consider what gift you can make to our 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign. Included in this mailing is more information about the campaign, upcoming events, how to make your pledge, and who to contact for assistance. We have faced difficult and unimaginable challenges over the last year, and it is together that we emerge into a changing world. It remains a privilege and a joy to walk these days and fulfill these promises with you.

In love and community,
Revs. Kelly & Roger

HIGHLIGHTS & HOPES OVER THE LAST YEAR



HIGHLIGHTS

- Our members made and distributed 225 masks
- We raised nearly \$20,000 for our Eviction Prevention Fund
- Over 1,100 people watched our Winter Solstice Service
- Our Children's RE kids made and mailed over 100 cards to members in our community
- Our first full year of solar energy at FUS



HOPES

- Celebrating the arrival of our next minister as they join Rev. Kelly as co-senior ministers
- Welcoming new and familiar faces again in our building
- Creating long-term virtual offerings to better serve our community
- Deeper engagement and growth among members
- Building a future set for sustained growth including a justly compensated staff

A MESSAGE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN



Monica Nolan,
Executive Director

As we enter another stewardship season during the pandemic, we remain grateful for your financial generosity which makes it possible for us to continue our work and maintain our beautiful buildings. This fiscal year our pledge income has declined significantly from the year prior, and the federal government's Payment Protection Program (PPP) funds will go a long way in helping us balance our budget. However, we still need to reach our \$1.1 million pledge goal for the 2021-2022 campaign as we welcome a new minister to join Rev. Kelly Crocker and continue creating the next chapter of our life together.

We invite you to attend a virtual cottage meeting with members of the Stewardship Ministry Team throughout March. It's a chance to see familiar faces and ask questions about our campaign. Learn more on our website at www.fusmadison.org/stewardship. We'll also hear from fellow members throughout the month about what FUS means to them.

For the generations who brought us here, for the generations to come, and for the world that needs us now, thank you for giving generously.

GIVING TO THE CAMPAIGN

HOW TO PLEDGE

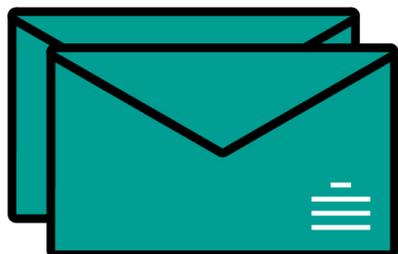
For more information about our Stewardship Campaign, including becoming a Sustaining Steward, making a legacy gift, and the UUA's suggested giving guide, visit www.fusmadison.org/stewardship.



ONLINE GIVING

In fall 2020, we launched a new giving platform designed to make it easier to give, update your information, and review your giving history. This platform also includes a text to give feature, a one-time donation option, and a reoccurring donation option, so once you set your pledge *and enter relevant payment information*, we do the rest.

The process is easy and secure, and we're here to help. If you're ready to pledge, visit www.fusmadison.org/my-pledges. We've also included a step-by-step guide on our website.



MAIL YOUR PLEDGE

We've included a paper pledge form on the back of this page. Please fill out the form and use a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mail to:

First Unitarian Society of Madison
attn: **Cheryll Mellenthin**
900 University Bay Drive
Madison, WI 53705

If you have any questions about the form, please contact us and we'll be happy to help.

CONTACT US!

We're here to help and answer your questions!

For questions about the Stewardship Campaign, contact Project Coordinator, **Cheryll Mellenthin**, by email at cheryllm@fusmadison.org or by phone at 608-233-9774 ext. 130.

For questions about giving online or making a donation via stocks, contact Office Manager, **Florence Jessup**, by email at florencej@fusmadison.org or by phone at 608-233-9774 ext. 110.

