

Does my pledge matter? **Yes!**

Over 80% of our annual program budget comes from individual contributions.

We recognize that incomes vary in size and predictability, so we rely on each person to be as generous as possible. Our shared ministry is a collective effort, where all contributions are valued and every dollar counts.

Because we are a community of faith & practice, many people embrace the spiritual practice of tithing, which means deciding on a percentage of household income for charitable giving and making UUSGS a significant part of that giving. This practice can work for you... whether you are strapped or flush or somewhere in between. Intentional giving is one way you can live a generous life and invest in meaningful changes for yourself and the world!

People often ask: "How much should I give? Where do I begin?"

First, get on board with proportional budgeting & giving. What does this mean? Simply, it means giving away a percentage of whatever you take in as part of your personal spiritual practice. It may seem hard at first - the first step is to do the math! - but what we hear all the time is how good it feels to live a more generous life. And anyone can do it, regardless of income!

Where should you begin? Consider a pledge equal to at least 5% of your household income. Why 5%? Because that amount is manageable for many families, regardless of how much money you have. If an annual amount feels scary, break it into smaller pieces. You may be surprised by how quickly it adds up! Give monthly - or even weekly - via easy automatic payments. ([Recurring payments are easy - get started by clicking here!](#))

Many household budgets are tight - we get it - and 5% may sound like a lot. So, start where you can, break it into smaller payments, and grow a little bit each year. For example, if your annual income is \$50,000, adding one percent to your annual giving this coming year would equal \$500 per year, or less than \$10 per week.

And rest assured: that kind of money can make a big difference, especially when we all do it together! Everyone doing what they can means more opportunities for connection and learning... more dynamic worship, music and children's programming... a safe and clean facility through which to welcome and serve the community... and more!

Pro tip: talk to the people you love - children, especially! - about where you give your money. Talk about how it feels and why you do it. Break the taboo! For their benefit and for yours. Give 'til it feels good!

Together, we can draw the circle wide! On behalf of all who benefit from our shared ministry, thank you for all that you do, for your generosity and care of one another and of UUSGS.

Did you know....?

- **UUSGS is a GREAT investment in terms of charitable giving.** Every year, UUSGS coordinates a conservative estimate of 17,772 volunteer hours. According to non-profit industry standards, the economic value of an average volunteer hour is \$25.43... which means that **UUSGS members and friends combine to create at least \$451,941.96 worth of volunteer time every year** doing things like: bringing meals to homebound people, supporting access and inclusion through the arts, working with young people within and beyond our walls, and collaborating to create positive change in our local communities. Put another way...
 - For every \$1 that you give to UUSGS, more than \$1 - at times, almost double!! - is put to direct use in service of the community. (Research suggests that the average return for charitable giving is ~75%. We're well over 100%!)

Did you know...? (cont'd)

- **UUSGS gives away between \$15,000 to \$20,000 every year through our Sunday Offering collections.** Recipients are nominated by members, meaning we are connected to each recipient and to their work. We hear this all the time in the personalized letters of thanks we receive, many of which are hanging on a bulletin board at UUSGS.
- **We are liberating the asset that is our facility in service of our shared values and our wider community.** UUSGS regularly hosts artistic events; we are known for this. But did you know that the Interfaith Council of Greater Springfield, which convenes local interfaith leaders in the name of peace and mutual understanding, is now hosted by UUSGS every month... including for such events as a dialog with local hospital leaders to determine funding priorities for community health programs? We donated program space to support a self-care event for local caregivers, like social workers and teachers. We're actively exploring using our woodland setting for more nature-based education and permaculture. Add in two mediation groups, tai chi, and a new improv troupe partnership... and UUSGS is an important community resource week in and week out.
 - Unity House Players in 2018-19 convened cast and crew of 150+ artists, musicians, and other helpers... who in turn inspired an audience of over 1500 people across 15 performances. Three school groups were offered a special daytime performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*; an art exhibit on loan from the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect was on display in Friendship Hall.

Stewardship as Spiritual Practice

Think about giving as a spiritual practice, something you can do with intention to invest in your values and create generous habits of the heart. To begin, try planning your annual giving as a percentage of your income. Being intentional like this - no matter how much money you have or make - can feel really empowering. And great things are possible when we all work together.

Below is a giving guide. What we hope this shows is that we needn't be afraid of big numbers, especially when we break them down into smaller pieces (via online giving!) and when we all work together to do what we can.

<u>GIVING GUIDE:</u>			Calculate a Pledge Increase:		
Household Income	5% of Income	10% of Income	<i>Each Additional 1%</i>		
			<u>\$ / Year</u>	<u>\$ / Month</u>	<u>\$ / Week</u>
\$10,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$100	\$8.33	\$1.92
\$20,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$200	\$16.67	\$3.85
\$30,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$300	\$25.00	\$5.77
\$40,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$400	\$33.33	\$7.69
\$50,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$500	\$41.67	\$9.62
\$60,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$600	\$50.00	\$11.54
\$70,000	\$3,500	\$7,000	\$700	\$58.33	\$13.46
\$80,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$800	\$66.67	\$15.38
\$90,000	\$4,500	\$9,000	\$900	\$75.00	\$17.31
\$100,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$83.33	\$19.23
\$125,000	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$1,250	\$104.17	\$24.04
\$150,000	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$1,500	\$125.00	\$28.85
\$200,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$2,000	\$166.67	\$38.46
\$300,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$3,000	\$250.00	\$57.69
\$500,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$416.67	\$96.15