



Becoming is never giving up on the idea that there's more growing to be done.

– MICHELLE OBAMA

Our Peterborough Unitarian Universalist congregation is growing and thriving! Both new and long-time members are committed to supporting and creating our many ministries, serving our congregation, each other, and the wider community. This stewardship season is a chance to sustain this vibrant congregation's well-being while investing in its growth as a caring and connected community. Commitment is never giving up on growing our community!

2023 Achievements

- Eighteen people signed our membership book in 2023 alone.
- Attendance has steadily increased with visitors online and in the sanctuary every Sunday.
- Our gatherings are more accessible, thanks to open pews, automatic doors downstairs, large-print orders of service, new signage, and a mobile microphone in the sanctuary.



Our 2023 Spiritual Ministry: Sundays and Beyond

- Inspiring and spiritually sustaining Sunday services from Rev. Lane and our Worship Ministry
- Expanded spiritual growth programs, including The Third Act and Soul Matters discussion groups
- Weekly meditation, open to all
- Monthly Sacred Circle Dances
- Outdoor service at Cathedral of the Pines
- Solstice and equinox celebrations
- UU & U classes for prospective & current members
- Return of Sunday childcare
- Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM) encouraging new clarity and cohesion among our ministries

Our Commitment to Caring and Community

- Increased giving to special collections for local nonprofits, such as Project Home, MATS, End 68 Hours of Hunger, and 350 NH, matched with funds from our social justice endowment
- Ukraine vigils
- Amnesty International letter writing campaign
- Caregivers Support Group
- Care Network
- Renewed celebrations of community and food
 - weekly community spaghetti supper
 - annual harvest dinner
 - Sunday potlucks
 - circle suppers
- Men's and Women's lunch groups
- Increased building use by local groups: music and theater groups, music soirees, the Messiah, handbell performances, and yoga classes
- Participation in the Greater Peterborough Interfaith Council



Improvements to Our Buildings and Technology

- Continuous improvements in technology for the sanctuary & Zoom services
- New energy efficient HVAC system in Carll House
- Enhanced pellet boiler to heat sanctuary



I find the energy in this congregation truly amazing . . . You have transformed . . . into one that is producing new fruits, new creativity, new spiritual growth opportunities, and new justice work.

– REV. LANE FISHER



Connecting to the Denomination

- General Assembly attendance by our Peterborough UUC contingent— three lay delegates, our minister, and our minister emeritus— bringing back great information for our leadership
- Involvement in New England Region UUA leadership programs
- Participation in UUA Green Sanctuary re-accreditation program

And Coming this Spring . . .

- A new music director
- An invitation and encouragement to all members and friends to listen deeply to one another as we explore what our congregation means to us and what we aspire to become in conversations about “Who Are We?”
- Sermons and discussions on principles in the UUA's Common Read, *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*
- Invitation for new delegates to attend the 2024 General Assembly (entirely online)
- Participation in community-wide Window-Dressers program



What are Our Commitments in 2024-25?

- Your pledge this stewardship season will support the ministries of our congregation, including:
- Continued financial strength as we prepare to receive the final mortgage income payment in 2028 from the sale of the former parsonage. (See more info in the box at right *Replacing Mortgage Income in 2028*.)
- Ongoing accessibility planning and work, as directed by the congregation
- A robust music program with our new director and a congregational singing leader
- A Vote Forward letter writing campaign for the upcoming election, led by our Social Justice ministry
- Future plans and programs evolving from “Who Are We?” Listening Circles
- Creation of a user-friendly covenant of right relations
- Ongoing work toward recertification as a Green Sanctuary
- Ongoing development of spiritual growth programs, with the likelihood of an OWL class for youth and discernment of our further commitments of time and treasure to young families
- Cost of living raises of 4% for our exemplary and dedicated staff
- Publication of an updated history of our congregation & building for the 200th anniversary in 2025
- Continuing development of our technology (TV screens, cameras, sound systems) and regular maintenance of our older buildings

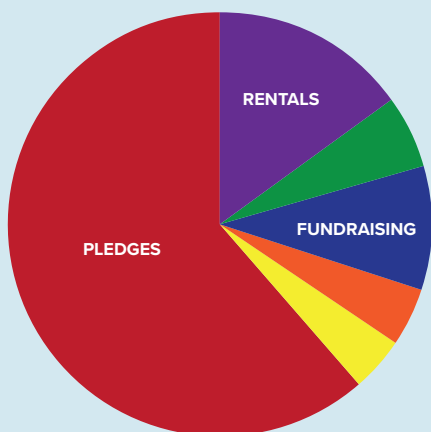


Replacing Mortgage Income in 2028

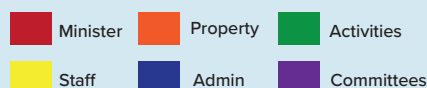
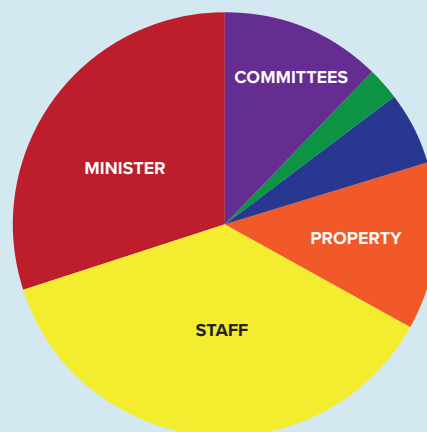
Currently, the congregation receives a yearly income from the mortgage (Principal + Interest) paid by the buyer of the former parsonage. This mortgage will be paid off in 2028, reducing annual operating income by about \$12,000. The Finance Committee proposes increasing the stewardship goal by \$3,000 per year over the next four years, and putting that money in escrow to compensate for the income loss in 2028.

Your Pledge Funds Care for Our Growing Community:

INCOME CHART 2023/24



EXPENSES CHART 2023/24



Pledges of Members & Friends for 2023/24

In 2023, the average annual pledge was \$2,100 and the distribution of pledges was:

2023 PLEDGE DISTRIBUTION:

Tier (quartile)	How many:
0 – \$650	17
\$651 – \$1500	18
\$1501 – \$3000	17
\$3001+	16

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

– MARGARET MEAD

What Can I Give in 2024?

In the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025), it is projected that our congregation's expenses will increase by 10%. As a handy guideline, please see the table below for projected average weekly or monthly pledge increases based on last year's average pledge of \$175/month or \$2,100/year.

Numbers Based on Average Annual Pledge of \$2,100 for 2023	Average Annual Pledge for 2024 would be:	Average Monthly Pledge for 2024 would be:	Monthly increase over last year	Weekly increase over last year
10% Increase for 2024	\$2,310	\$193	\$18	\$4
15% Increase for 2024	\$2,415	\$201	\$26	\$6
20% Increase for 2024	\$2,520	\$210	\$35	\$8

As always, every pledge will be gratefully received no matter the amount. Please give what feels right for you. If you are able, please consider a pledge increase between 10% and 20%.

There are Two Ways to Pledge:

1. To pledge using the enclosed yellow pledge card, simply fill it out and return to the office via mail or in person by Friday, April 14. You can also put it in the Sunday collection basket.
2. To pledge online, go to this link:

<https://uupeterborough.org/2024-2025-pledge>

If you have questions or wish to discuss your pledge, please send an email to the Stewardship Chair, John Richards, at jwrpbnh@gmail.com or any member of the Governing Board.



OUR MISSION

We nurture a loving, inclusive, spiritual community embracing all ages;

We witness for our liberal Unitarian Universalist faith with compassion and generosity;

We serve and inspire the local and global community through social action and the arts.

Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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