



# Growing Toward a Brighter Future

For 200 years, our building has been a landmark in the center of Peterborough and a gathering place for the community. Our congregation has shared the loving and compassionate light of liberal religion for almost as long. Most recently, our Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Congregation (PUUC) lit the way for us to celebrate community through the pandemic and welcomed many at a distance to connect with this congregation. We emerged thriving.

*May you be the light wherever you go.*

— REV. LANE FISHER 1/21/24

Now, more than ever, we need to keep our beacon burning bright. We each need the warmth of our community and the assurance that we will rekindle each other's lights in bleak times. We must continue to offer a haven to the wider community— a place where all people can trust that their dignity and worthiness will be recognized, nourished, and supported.

This year, the stewardship season has arrived just as many feel a need to support the health of our society and to find power in community. Pledging helps to keep our loving light shining in

Peterborough and the Monadnock area. With your generosity, our ministries of caring, spiritual growth, and community outreach can grow, and PUUC will remain a liberal beacon, welcoming others home.

## UU Peterborough Casts a Steadfast Beacon of Love

### 2024–2025 Beacons:

- ◆ Fourteen new members joined in 2024, 37 since the end of the pandemic, and we welcome new visitors in our pews every Sunday.
- ◆ The congregation deeply engaged in work to define “Who We Are,” exploring our identity, values and aspirations as we plan for our future.
- ◆ Window Dressers led a community-wide effort to build 138 window inserts to save energy and keep homes much warmer for less money.
- ◆ Exploring opportunities to develop intergenerational ministry for the changing world in 2025 & beyond.
- ◆ Committee on Shared Ministry and the congregation are actively developing a new covenant.



## Our Spiritual Ministry: Sundays and Beyond

- ◆ Rev. Lane and our Worship Ministry lead inspiring, spiritually sustaining and varied Sunday services
- ◆ Return of Marybeth Hallinan, our joy-filled Director of Music Ministry
- ◆ Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve services; outdoor service at Cathedral of the Pines
- ◆ Caring for one another through celebrations of life
- ◆ Circles of community and consolation at tender times
- ◆ Expansion of the small group ministry, Soul Matters, with an additional monthly group
- ◆ Monthly Sacred Circle Dances
- ◆ UU & U classes for those new to PUUC



*Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.*

– DESMOND TUTU

PULLING THE WINNING RAFFLE TICKET

## Lighting the Way: Caring for Our Communities

- ◆ Social Justice endowment program, matching monthly special collection funds up to \$500 for local nonprofits like Project Home, Avenue A/Grapevine, MATS & Shelter from the Storm, Concord Equity Health Center, Monadnock Hunger Walk and local food pantries, ACLU of NH, and the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum
- ◆ Vote Forward and Amnesty International letter writing campaigns
- ◆ Care Network including Caregivers' Support Group
- ◆ Special Book Group Discussions of *Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change* and *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*
- ◆ Community and congregational nourishment: weekly community suppers, annual harvest dinner, additional Sunday potlucks, circle suppers
- ◆ Sunday childcare
- ◆ Our building provides space for our community outreach activities, arts groups, and civic nonprofits to meet and perform

## Keeping the Lights on at PUUC (Improvements to Our Buildings and Technology)

- ◆ Newly installed acoustic panels in parish hall help with hearing-accessibility
- ◆ New WiFi network with mesh technology for better connectedness
- ◆ Continuous improvements in AV technology for the sanctuary & Zoom services
- ◆ After a decade, newly cleaned windows brighten the sanctuary
- ◆ Congregational meeting with architect Michael Petrovich for chancel accessibility project



OUR TRUSTY TECH TEAM

## Adding Our Light to the UUA (Connecting to the Denomination)

- ◆ PUUC leaders participate regularly in NE UUA leadership programs
- ◆ UUA-Wide Climate Justice Revival – including workshop for kids and showing of *Saving Walden's World* at the local theater
- ◆ General Assembly attendance by full PUUC delegation, bringing back helpful information for our leadership; and invitation for new delegates to attend the 2025 General Assembly
- ◆ Sermon and discussions on UUA's Common Read, *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*

## fUUn Stuff!

- ◆ New Foray into fUUn committee – Game Nights, Getting to Know You Happy Hour, Men Who Cook Luncheon, Beatles Night
- ◆ MUUsic 4UU concerts monthly on Saturdays
- ◆ Weekly hiking groups and monthly book club
- ◆ Generating fun and funds with our Dinner Anywhere in the World Raffle, Spring Auction, and Holiday Stroll

# What Are Our Commitments in 2025-26?

## Keeping Our Lights Shining

- ◆ Continued financial strength as we prepare to receive the final mortgage income payment from the sale of the former parsonage (refer to the box below about replacing mortgage income)
- ◆ Extra hours for our new administrator to support the work of our minister, the Governing Board, and congregation
- ◆ Stipend for our current administrator to support a new office administrator
- ◆ Support of continued technology development with our paid Technology Coordinator and indispensable volunteers
- ◆ Commitment to our music program led by our beloved and devoted Director of Music Ministry
- ◆ Cost of living raises of 3.5% for our wonderful & dedicated staff
- ◆ Increasing our contribution to approach our “fair share” to the UUA for leadership development and consulting services to PUUC



MARYBETH AT CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

## Being the Light: Aspirations in the New Year

- ◆ Ongoing accessibility planning and work, as directed by the congregation; exploring redesign of the chancel area and more discussions regarding how to move forward with hearing accessibility
- ◆ Exploring intergenerational ministry needs and programs
- ◆ New programs resulting from Who We Are and Who We Want to Be
- ◆ Creation of a user-friendly covenant of right relations and a new conflict transformation process
- ◆ Continued work toward renewed recognition as a UUA Green Sanctuary
- ◆ Celebrating our building’s 200th anniversary as we continue to be a beacon of love and hope in Peterborough and beyond



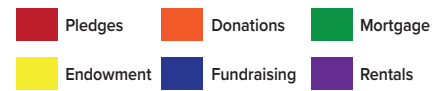
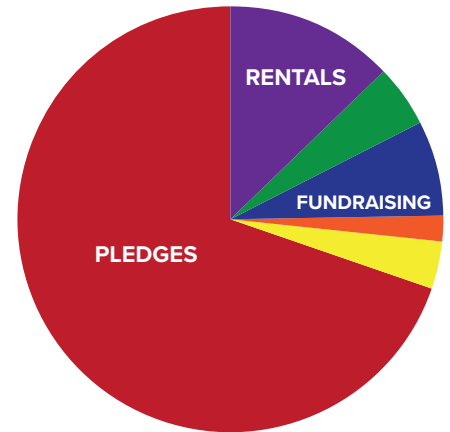
**R**eplacing Mortgage Income in 2028. Currently, the congregation receives a yearly income from the mortgage (Principal + Interest) paid by the buyer of the former parsonage. This mortgage will be paid off in 2028, reducing annual operating income by about \$12,000. Beginning last year, we are preparing for the income loss by increasing our stewardship in four \$3,000 steps and saving this money to cover any gaps in 2028 and beyond.

*As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.*

– MARY ANNE RADMACHER

## Your Pledge Funds Care for Our Growing Community

INCOME CHART 2024/25



EXPENSES CHART 2024/25



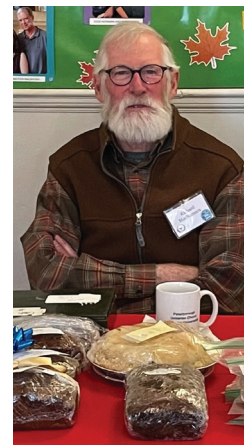
SANTA PAINTED AT THE HOLIDAY STROLL

*For there is always light,  
if only we're brave  
enough to see it.  
If only we're brave  
enough to be it.*

— AMANDA GORMAN



THE AUCTION'S FOXY LADIES  
WINDOW WASHERS



DWIGHT (Community Supper), JULIE & JANE (Social Justice), AND DICK (Holiday Stroll)

## Your Pledge Nurtures & Sustains Our Growing Local & World-Wide Communities

### What Can I Give for 2025–2026?

In the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026), our congregation's expenses are projected to increase 8%. 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 \$188/month or \$2,250/year.

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%.

Numbers Based on Average Annual Pledge of \$2,250 for 2024	Average Annual Pledge for 2025 would be:	Average Monthly Pledge for 2025 would be:	Monthly increase over last year	Weekly increase over last year
10% Increase for 2025	\$2,475	\$206	\$19	\$4.14
15% Increase for 2025	\$2,588	\$216	\$28	\$6.44
20% Increase for 2025	\$2,700	\$225	\$38	\$8.51

### Pledges of Members & Friends for 2024/25

In 2024, the average annual pledge was \$2,250 and the distribution of pledges was:

#### 2024 PLEDGE DISTRIBUTION:

TIER (QUARTILE)	HOW MANY:
\$150–\$750	18
\$751 – \$1600	21
\$1601 – \$3000	22
\$3001+	16



### 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.

### There are Two Ways to Pledge:

- ◆ 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 4th**. You can also put it in the Sunday collection basket.
- ◆ To pledge online, go to this link: [uupeterborough.org/2025-2026-pledge](https://uupeterborough.org/2025-2026-pledge)

If you have questions or wish to discuss your pledge, please send an email to the Stewardship Chairs, Bryan Field at [bryguy350@yahoo.com](mailto:bryguy350@yahoo.com) or Sarah Dengler at [sarahjdengler@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjdengler@gmail.com).

## Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Congregation

25 Main Street Peterborough, NH 03458  
603-924-6245 • [uupeterborough.org](https://uupeterborough.org)