

First Unitarian Portland

Weaving Threads of Season of Giving 2026 Generosity



Dear Members and Friends,

Nearly 160 years ago, Mary Frazar and Sarah Burrage's bold vision wove the initial threads of our justice-centered and spiritually diverse congregation. For seven generations people like you have continued weaving the tapestry of our community by giving fully of your hearts and spirits, talents and resources.

Today, we carry this vision forward. As we enter our *Season of Giving 2026*, we invite you to reflect on what this church means in your life and to practice generosity as a way of strengthening our shared community.

Each gift is a thread in the fabric we weave together: a fabric strong enough to hold us through change, and big enough to embrace the future.

Right now, in our sanctuary, week after week, we are serving as a source of resilience and hope for people of all ages. Right now, we are responding to the call to show up for immigrants, trans beloveds, and our houseless neighbors. Right now, our newly formed Democracy In Action team encourages us all to rise up against anti-democratic authoritarianism. Whether you show up at a rally, write letters, provide meals, help shape policy, or contribute in other ways—your action matters.

In recent years, we've practiced careful stewardship, investing in some ministries while scaling back in others. Though we've gone without certain positions we hope to restore, our community has continued to grow through *Souper Sunday*, more classes for adults, and expanded outreach on Facebook and Instagram. We've achieved this with fewer staff and in ways that are hard to sustain. Please consider increasing your pledge—or making one for the first time—to help us maintain these ministries and move toward long-term sustainability.

It's important that you know though that we are facing a challenge connected to our financial wellbeing. This summer we learned that Northwest Academy and Outside In would have to reduce the amount of space that they rent from us. We are already feeling the loss of nearly half of our income from tenants. As we are a church that is 70% funded by pledges and donations, that income is vital to our operations. Staff and volunteers are working diligently to bring in new tenants, but this shortfall is actively impacting our budget.

For 2026, our goal is \$1.475 million. Achieving it will require the full support of this community, each of us offering what we can. This is a significant increase over what we raised last year with our *Season of Giving 2025* plus the successful *Match 2025* campaign that followed. This ambitious goal is to ensure our core ministries and functions are fully funded.

Now is the moment for each of us to do our part.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps us move forward with courage and hope. Please join us in weaving a future filled with love and possibility—something more important now than ever.

- If you are able, consider increasing your pledge by 10% - 25% or more. Your generosity will open the door to new possibilities for us.
- If you maintain your gift, you help us remain steady and strong.
- If you need to give less this year, know that every gift offered matters.

Together, we are creating a vibrant, compassionate, justice-seeking church—a tapestry of love and hope.

With deep gratitude,

Rev. Alison Rev. Tom

Rev. Alison Miller & Rev. Thomas Disrud

Join Our “Season of Giving”

Each autumn, during our “Season of Giving,” First Unitarian asks its members and friends to make a “Pledge,” a promise of financial support, for the coming calendar year.

These gifts fund the Church's ministries, staff, education, social justice, and more.

Our goal during this time is to give everyone an opportunity to reflect on the personal and communal commitments that hold us here and to engage in the spiritual practice of generosity.

A Pledged Gift is the intended amount you plan to give over the coming calendar year to support the church and our work.

Your Pledge can always be adjusted should your circumstances change.

You can fulfill your Pledge on whatever schedule works for you. Some give weekly or monthly, others quarterly, and some like to give the full amount all at once.



When you Pledge a gift for 2026 to “**Weaving Threads of Generosity**” you help fund what it takes for us to hold space for and actively build a spiritually alive, justice-centered, multigenerational community in the heart of Portland.



Rev. Alison Miller, Senior Minister
amiller@firstunitarianportland.org

Rev. Thomas Disrud, Associate Minister
tdisrud@firstunitarianportland.org

Questions about giving? Email
stewardship@firstunitarianportland.org

www.firstunitarianportland.org

October 2025

First Unitarian Portland

Weaving Threads of
Generosity



Guide
to
Giving

Season of Giving: 2026

Ministry Highlights

Worship and Music:

- In these difficult times, our services continue to make a space for us to bring our fears, our grief, and our hopes. We need community now more than ever.
- Through our collective plate share efforts, we raised just over \$40,000 for 15 different outside organizations whose mission is in concert with our own.
- Our music program is growing strong with Sunday music now including over 80 people across 3 ensembles and various guest artists from the Portland community.

Member to Member Connections

- Our new Welcome Desk and re-imagined lobby space reflect our hope that everyone entering the main sanctuary feels immediately at home.
- Our lay ministry program offers ongoing support through one-on-one pastoral care, grief and caregiving groups, weekly vespers services, and on-call chaplaincy for the congregation.

Family Ministries:

- We have had an increasing number of children and youth share stories and leading elements of the service. Now we are doing this every week. A happy way to live out our multigenerational identity!
- After some challenging years post-pandemic, we celebrated a reimagined *Coming of Age* program.

Social Justice:

- Over 300 people attended a series of 3 forums on protecting immigrants in Oregon, co-organized by the Advancing Racial Justice and Immigrant Justice Action Groups.
- In 2025, we launched *Democracy in Action (DIA)*, a group to promote nonviolent action that strengthens democracy and opposes authoritarianism. More than 275 congregants have participated in DIA initiatives, including marches to pro-democracy rallies, postcard campaigns, a “Speaking of Democracy” series, and *Know Your Rights* trainings.

Annual Income	Supporter		Sustainer		Leader		Visionary
	2%	5%	6%	7%	8%	10%	20%
\$10,000	\$200	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$1,000	\$2,000
\$20,000	\$400	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$4,000
\$30,000	\$600	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$2,100	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$6,000
\$40,000	\$800	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$2,800	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$8,000
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$60,000	\$1,200	\$3,000	\$3,600	\$4,200	\$4,800	\$6,000	\$12,000
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,750	\$4,500	\$5,250	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$10,500	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$14,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$40,000

Reflecting on What to Pledge?

Some find this chart helpful, but your pledge should match your heart and your budget!



Looking Forward...

Worship and Music:

- With Garrett Bond completing his Interim music position in June, we’ll begin our search for a new Director of Music Ministries in the spring. The Music Ministry Transition Team will be guiding this effort.
- This year our Board and leadership will engage the congregation in a visioning process to discern our congregation’s call in the coming years.

Family Ministries:

- Our Whole Lives (OWL), the comprehensive UU sexuality education program for children and youth, continues to be part of our important offerings and now we are expanding it to include classes for adults of all ages and life stages.

Social Justice:

- The good work of the shower project continues. To date, we have provided showers, clothing, food and community in a safe environment to over 1300 unhoused guests with the help of approximately 80 volunteers.

Membership:

- From Welcome Circles to Souper Sundays, our programs continue to help newcomers and long-timers connect in meaningful ways. With more adult programs blooming, there are now more avenues than ever to grow in spirit and in community. Our vision is to weave every person – new and longtime – into the living fabric of First Unitarian.

First Unitarian Portland

Weaving Threads of

Season of Giving 2026
Generosity



Full Name Person 1 _____

Full Name Person 2 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Pledge a Gift of Support to Fund Our Ministry, Services, Programs and Staff for 2026

Fulfill it now or anytime in 2026 on a schedule that works best for you.

Total Gift for 2026 \$ _____

January-December 2026

Would You Like to Make Your Pledge a "Sustainer Pledge" Going Forward?

Opt-in: pledge will RENEW automatically next year and be ongoing until you cancel it with us.

Payment Schedule

Monthly Quarterly One-time Annual Comments: _____

Payment Method

Direct Debit - church-initiated checking account withdrawal (If new, send VOIDED check to office)

I hereby authorize First Unitarian to process debit entries on my account on the 20th of the each month for monthly payments and the 15th of March, June, Sept., and Dec. for Quarterly payments.

Bank Bill Pay (Congregant-initiated through your own bank account)

Check

IRA or Donor-Advised Funds

Stock

"I/We" will pay online by credit card using the Church's Vanco page: tinyurl.com/giveFirstUpdx

Signature: _____

Fill out the form above -OR- pledge online at: tinyurl.com/firstupdx2026

Questions? Email stewardship@firstunitarianportland.org