First Unitarian Portland

BRIGHTEN THE LIGHT

2027 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Guide to Giving



Be a Part of the Brighten the Light Campaign: **Pledge a gift for 2027**

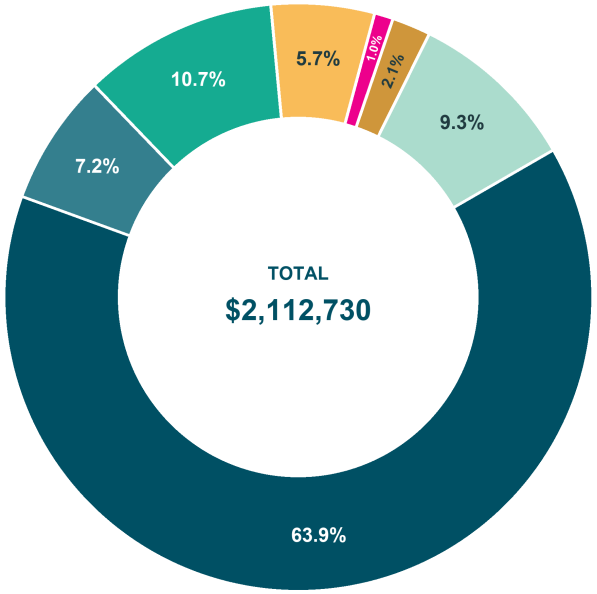
Through your Annual Pledge, First Unitarian is able to provide the ministries and programs that foster a spiritually enriched and supportive community, education and dialogue programs on issues that matter, and social justice engagement that contribute to a more just and equitable society.

A Pledged gift is the amount you plan to give during the 2027 calendar year as a testament to the importance of the church and our work together. You can fulfill your Pledge on the schedule that works best for you—weekly, monthly, quarterly or paid in full—mindful that it can always be adjusted should your circumstances change.

Thank you so much for considering a pledge to Brighten the Light in support of First Unitarian Portland as a spiritually alive, justice-centered, multigenerational community in the heart of Portland.

How We Sustain Our Mission

Your generosity supports our spiritual home and our work in the Portland community.



- **Pledges - $1,350,000 (63.9%)**
  (annual pledge commitments)
- **Additional Giving - $153,000 (7.2%)**
  (plate offerings, non-pledge gifts, and program gifts)
- **Sharing Our Spaces - $226,000 (10.7%)**
  (tenant and rental income)
- **Foundation - $120,000 (5.7%)**
  (operating support from legacy gifts)
- **Programs and Community Activities - $21,800 (1.0%)**
  (program income and sales, incl. art wall and bookstore)
- **Interest Income - $45,000 (2.1%)**
  (interest earned on funds)
- **Released From Reserves - $196,930 (9.3%)**
  (ertc, shower project, auction)



Act of Stewardship

Stewardship is both the act of generously giving and wisely using the financial resources entrusted to us. As approved by the voting members of the congregation, the church's 2027 budget is slightly over $2.1M to sustain our ministries and programs, support our staff, and care for our buildings and grounds. Annual Pledge income is budgeted at $1.35M and your generosity provides the largest share of the funding that makes this possible, as shown in the revenue chart above.

As costs increase and inflation rises, members and friends of the church are respectfully asked to consider increasing their pledges 10%, 20%, or even 25% above their previous pledges—mindful that every pledge, regardless of the amount, is an important affirmation of your commitment to the mission and ministry of First Unitarian Portland.

Ministry Highlights

Pastoral Ministry and Spiritual Care

Inspirational sermons, adult education classes, home and hospital visits, weddings, funerals, memorial services, and other important life-cycle events are just a few ways that the First Unitarian community is a compassionate, spiritually-enriched and caring community.

Family Ministries

We now have dedicated Religious Education rooms allowing us to creatively serve a growing group of registered students. Addressing "big life" questions through hands-on artistic expression and collaborating on a child and youth-led Earth Fair are central parts of this year's RE curriculum. It's an exciting time in our all-ages worship services.

Social Justice and Community Engagement

Key projects this year include promoting safe and fair elections and challenging the threat of Christian Nationalism in Oregon and beyond. We continue to be active leaders in protecting reproductive, Trans, immigrant and housing rights, and expanding the Shower Project's services, capacity and long-term sustainability.

Member to Member Connections

A culture of welcome and inclusion is fostered with Souper Sundays and Pancake Breakfasts, Welcome Circles, emerging Neighborhood Groups, Adult Education Classes and staff outreach and networking. The results? Over 30 new voting members, more than 100 new visitors participating in the Welcome Circle, and an average of 150 people served per Souper Sunday.

Worship and Music

This year we celebrated hiring Dr. Daniel Bassin as our new Director of Music and thirty years of service of our organist, Joe O'Donnell. Upcoming musical highlights include a special music and worship service on November 22nd, and collaborations with leading artists, including Julia Keefe (Nez Perce)—vocalist, composer, and bandleader of the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band—and Sarah Hennies' film "Contralto" weaving an exhilarating score with an ensemble of strings and percussion and the vocal exercises of its transfeminine cast.

Again, only through your Pledge support is First Unitarian Portland able to serve and impact lives in the way we do!



Josh and Jennifer Leitner, *Campaign Co-chairs*

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Questions about giving:
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Pledge a Gift for 2027