



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship:
*An inclusive religious community encouraging
lives of purpose, service, and joy*

March 3, 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Spring is coming, in more ways than one. While the weather is improving so are our spirits as we look forward to those days when we can gather together again at BUF. It is also time for our annual pledge drive - a perfect time for us to contemplate all the reasons that BUF is important to us, and to decide our level of financial support for the coming year.

We are seeking to increase our total 2021-22 pledge amount from \$310,000 to \$325,000, roughly a 5% increase. That pledge goes to BUF's General Fund, which covers staff salaries, lights, heat, office supplies, repairs, insurance, denominational support, our mortgage, and other expenses of serving our community.

This is a key time for our Fellowship, when every pledge, large and small, has a strong positive effect on our growth and financial stability. **How much we can give now will determine how much we are able to support each other and our world, this year and for years to come.**

The pandemic is still making its presence known and we want to focus on keeping each other healthy and safe. ***This year, rather than doing our customary person to person canvassing (which we love and will return to next year) we are trying to accomplish most of the process virtually (online).***

Here's what we all need to do so that our Fellowship can continue to flourish:

- 1) Reflect with pride on everything that BUF does for your fellowship and the greater community.
- 2) Talk with your family about what BUF means to you, and the ways you depend on it.
- 3) Resolve to pledge as much as your situation permits. (Personally, we've found the updated "Fair Share" contribution guide on the back of this letter to be helpful.)
- 4) For inspiration, we have enclosed "We Go On", our pamphlet written by Roz Reynolds.
- 5) For better understanding of our ongoing challenges and successes, we have enclosed a letter from the board.
- 6) When you are prepared to make your pledge, you may do so with our online pledge form here: <https://wp.buf.org/administration-overview/donate/2021-2022-pledge-drive/>. That's the direct route. The scenic route is to go to buf.org, click on Give link in upper right-hand corner, then click on 2021-2022 Pledge Drive link on the left side of the Give page.
- 7) If you are unable to do an online pledge, please contact the Stewardship team at stewardship@buf.org or call Kathy at the BUF office (360) 733-3837. We can help you complete your pledge via mail or other means.

How we share our material gifts defines us as individuals and as a congregation. We rejoice in our opportunity to give as we are able. *Generosity is how we manifest our stated mission.*

What an exciting opportunity to be part of what BUF is doing to build a better world!

In fellowship,

For the 2021-2022 Stewardship Team