



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

February 9, 2024

Dear Members and Friends,

It is 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. Your 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. **To maintain our present level of staffing/services we will need to raise our total pledges by 15% or \$50,000.**

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.**

This year we are returning to primarily one on one visits. However, we want everyone to be comfortable with this process. You, the pledger and your canvasser will agree as to which way you want to connect:

1. In person – in your home or another location such as at BUF or a coffeehouse/restaurant
2. By telephone
3. Virtually through a method such as Zoom or FaceTime
4. Or you may prefer to go direct to BUF as we've done the last few years:
  - a. Emailing your pledge information to [stewardship@buf.org](mailto:stewardship@buf.org) with the following info:
    - i. name, address, home phone, cell phone, email, \$ amount, how often (per month, year, etc.), if you want EFT (auto deduct from your bank account) please state so.
  - b. Filling out the online pledge form here: <https://wp.buf.org/administration-overview/donate/2024-2025-pledge-drive/>
  - c. You can also go to buf.org, click on "Give" in upper right corner and click on "2024-2025 Pledge Drive" on the left hand side.

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 our pamphlet, "Listening Forward".
- 5) If you have any questions, please contact the Stewardship team at [stewardship@buf.org](mailto:stewardship@buf.org) or call Michelle 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,

Rick/Vlad  
For the 2024-2025 Stewardship Team