



Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
Community, Compassion, Commitment

February 20, 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

Every year we set aside February and March to connect with each other, think about all the reasons that BUF is important to us, and gather funds for the coming year. Our pledge drive begins on March 2 this year.

This is a time of great uncertainty. **Every pledge** supports our financial stability and how we make a difference to each other and to people outside our doors who need our help.

Our pledges cover staff salaries, lights and heat, office supplies, repairs, insurance, denominational support, our mortgage, and other expenses of serving our community. Last year we raised \$350,000 in pledges. This year, we need to increase that amount enough to provide a small cost-of-living raise for our staff and attract an interim minister for this fall.

We prioritize in-person visits for our pledge drive. Your canvasser will contact you, and together you will decide whether to meet in person at your home or another location such as BUF, or by another method such as telephone or Zoom.

If you cannot do a one-on-one visit this year, you can pledge online:

- Email your pledge information to **stewardship@buf.org** with: name, address, home phone, cell phone, email, \$ amount, how often (per month, year, etc.). Please tell us if you want EFT (auto deduct from your bank account).
- Or go to buf.org, click on "Give" in the upper right corner and click on "2025-2026 Pledge Drive" on the lefthand side.

Deciding how much to give *before* your canvass visit:

- Talk with your family about what BUF means to you.
- Pledge as much as your situation permits. (The UUA Fair Share Guide is on the back of this letter for reference.)

Questions? Haven't been contacted? Email the Stewardship team at **stewardship@buf.org** or call Michelle at the BUF office (360) 733-3837.

Thank you for helping BUF to shape a better world!

In fellowship,

Lee Seaman
For the 2025-2026 Stewardship Team