

FUSD is my spiritual home because it creates an inclusive space of mutual support and respect—brimming with stirring music—for seekers of wisdom, meaning, belonging, and service. It counters the darkness of our era by offering a vital space for insight and curiosity, pluralistic spiritual development, and joy and tears, to help you reconnect with your best self in work for the greater good, whether toward service or justice work in the community or the variety of other worthy volunteer activities.

-Martha Gray

The decision to move to Denver in 2022 was a surprisingly easy one, because my husband Ed and I knew we wanted to be very active in our new grandsons' lives. We also knew we would find a ready home in a UU community. After three decades at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City, we jumped right in when we arrived at First Unitarian Denver. **Thank you, FUSD, for being who you are and welcoming us to our new home.**

-Tess Dieringer

First Unitarian is our Home for Hope as we navigate the treacherous waters of an authoritarian government that does not respect the inherent worth and dignity of each individual nor acknowledge that we are all interconnected. Our social action is our spiritual activism and sends a hopeful message to the greater community.

Hope thrives at FUSD!

-John Rymers



Community
is **inspired.**

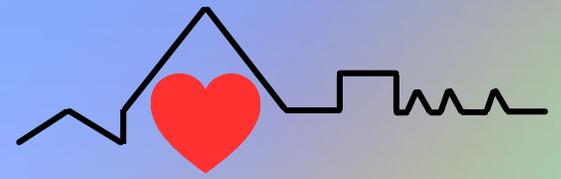
Justice
is **realized.**

Diversity
is **celebrated.**

Souls are **grown** in
love and **service.**

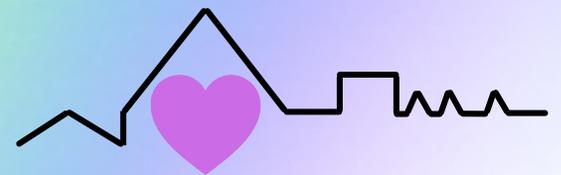
1400 N. Lafayette St.
Denver, CO 80218
www.fusden.org

Join us Sundays at 10:30 am



**Growing Our
Home for Hope**

Pledge Campaign 2026
First Unitarian Society of Denver





Dear friends,



You may have noticed more people coming to Sunday Services recently, seeking spiritual sustenance and shelter through these challenging times.

In response to this growing need for community and connection, **we are growing our home for hope** in a multitude of ways. For Stewardship, this looks like providing a strong foundation for the future through our Legacy Giving program, and growing our staff structure to better support our operations.

First Unitarian operates without financial support from outside sources; **we are fully funded by YOU!** If, like us, you have found a home at First Unitarian that has brought you inspiration, comfort, connection, and warmth, help us plant the seeds, tend to our sprouts, and harvest the bounty together by pledging today. Generosity is a spiritual practice which feeds us all.

In Community,
Lynn Garman, Stewardship Council Chair
Ellory Boyd, Stewardship Coordinator

It is in giving that I connect with others, the world, and the divine.

-Isabel Allende



Blooms

Areas of growth in the past year at FUSD



Our membership currently sits just over 400, with 80 new members having joined in the past year

We hired Ministerial Resident Michael DeSantis in order to give Rev. Mike Morran a well deserved sabbatical



The music program hired Wyatt Smith as the permanent director of the Chalice Singers

Giving in Action supported over 20 diverse organizations, totaling over \$40,000 in donations for 2025



Connections Ministry hosted our first two Soulful Potlucks, involving over 100 participants

Religious Exploration established fun new traditions for our kids, such as caroling at a retirement home and making cards for our Gold and Silver members



The Democracy Action Team created a rapid response team of 235 members to promote our UU values, the Middle East Justice Project hosted 20 educational events on Palestine, and the Immigration Project packaged thousands of whistle kits to protect our neighbors

Sprouts

Plans for the coming year at FUSD



We will be expanding to two services in April to accommodate our growing congregation

Plans are in the works to establish a Capital Replacement Reserve, in order to ensure the longevity of FUSD as our spiritual home



Souul Stage, a theater production involving over 50 members and friends will take place in April

In February, a reinvigorated LGBTQ+ group started meeting on a monthly basis



A new CORE circle for single and divorced parents will also meet monthly in 2026

Training will begin in 2026 for those interested in teaching a Pre-K - 1 Our Whole Lives class



After two Bylaws Forums in February, members will vote on new Bylaws at the June congregational meeting

Our Social Justice Projects will continue to facilitate opening up FUSD's space to those who need it, including welcoming homeless families during Family Promise in April and December



Why We Pledge



Pledging is Spiritual

A practice of joyful generosity reminds us of hope and abundance, even in times of scarcity. Your pledge is an opportunity to express your UU values and your hopes for the future of FUSD.

Pledging is Practical

Over 80% of our budget comes from member pledges. Your pledge sustains our inspiring worship services and music, children, youth, and family programs, pastoral care, social justice efforts and community partnerships.

Pledging is Communal

Whether large or small, together, our gifts make this community strong. Your pledge says: "I belong here, and I want this community to flourish."

Pledging is Relational

Stewardship is a reciprocal relationship, wherein the church community supports individuals and individuals support the church community. Our Stewardship Coordinator and Council are always here to help. Email stewardship@fusden.org

How We Pledge



Pick up your pledge packet on Stewardship Sunday, March 1st.

Unclaimed packets will be mailed directly to your address on file in Breeze. Please make sure it's up to date!



Talk with your Stewardship Ambassador during the month of March. They want to know how you're doing, any feedback you have about FUSD, and if you have any questions about pledging!



Make your pledge before March 22nd.

Return your pledge card to the Stewardship table during coffee hour on Sunday, mail your pledge card to FUSD at 1400 N Lafayette St. Denver, CO 80218 or pledge online at fusden.org/giving.



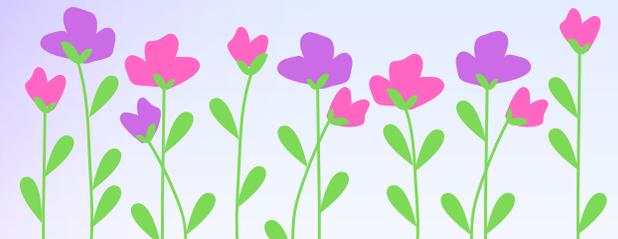
Celebrate your community's contributions on Gratitude Sunday, March 22nd! Join us for a celebratory brunch in the community room following the service.

Stewardship Goals

This year, **we aim to raise \$715,000** for the 2026/2027 Annual Operating Budget. This translates to a **\$1,625 "cost per member"**. However, we know this amount is not a realistic gift for all members or friends.

All we ask is for you to thoughtfully decide what a generous gift would look like for your household and **make your pledge before March 22nd**. Please see the back for instructions on submitting your pledge card. The Giving Guide enclosed will be able to help you determine a specific amount to pledge.

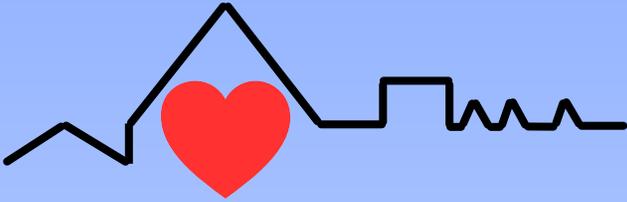
Our second goal is 100% participation - to have every member and friend contacted during the pledge campaign submit their pledge card, regardless of whether they are able to give monetarily this year. Thank you in advance for doing your part to accomplish these aspirations!



Please reflect on the guidance offered and consider both what you value about the FUSD community, as well as how your pledge fits into your personal expenses.

2026 Giving Guide

Please return the enclosed pledge form or go to fusden.org/giving let us know your intentions for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2026. Thank you.



Some households are financially comfortable. They never have to avoid medical care or postpone other large, surprise expenses due to finances. They may eat out at good restaurants, subscribe to the theater, and take multiple vacations per year.

A red pledge is more than \$1,010 per month, more than \$12,120 per year. We need at least 8 households to pledge at this level to meet our goal.



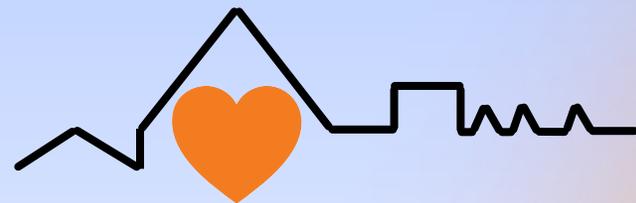
Some households have enough resources to always meet their basic needs. They can easily pay their bills on time and debt does not impact their financial choices. They own a home, and have plenty of disposable income for family vacations and meals out.

A yellow pledge is between \$160 - \$540 per month, \$1,920 to \$6,480 per year. We need at least 72 households to pledge at this level to meet our goal.



Some households may sometimes struggle to meet their basic needs. Perhaps they come from a single parent household, are students, are underemployed, living on Social Security, supporting a large family, or caring for others in their home. People in this category may not have much savings or disposable income, but they give when they can.

A blue pledge is between \$25 and \$85 per month, \$300 to \$1,000 per year.



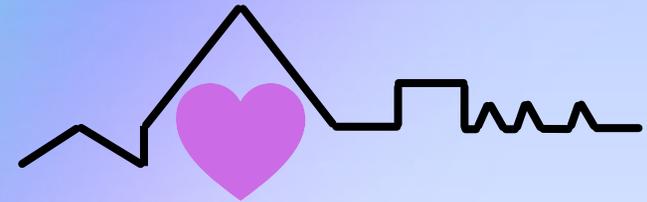
Some households have secure finances. Perhaps they have a well-paying job, a robust retirement fund, or other assets. They have a good amount of discretionary income and they may travel abroad on occasion, and own several vehicles or more than one property.

An orange pledge is between \$550 to \$1,000 per month, \$6,600 to \$12,000 per year. We need at least 21 households to pledge at this level to meet our goal.



Some households live comfortably but modestly. They have enough income to meet their basic needs, have access to health care, own a car, and have some financial savings. Perhaps they are retired on a fixed income, or have an income that is up and down.

A green pledge is between \$90 to \$150 per month \$1,050 to \$1,800 per year.



Some households might have family members who are in hospice care, unemployed, incarcerated, experiencing homelessness, or on permanent disability. Our community values interdependence and invites you to speak with our minister about supporting you with meals, financial assistance from the Minister's Discretionary Fund, connections to community resources, or pastoral care.

A purple pledge is between \$5 and \$20 per month, \$50 to \$250 per year.