



James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Dear Reebers,

Do you remember the first time you knew Reeb could be your spiritual community? Was it the feeling of a warm welcome on a Sunday morning, the discovery of a shared connection over coffee (or during online coffee hour), or the experience of looking out into the congregation when you sang in the choir on Sunday morning?

For me (Rachel), it was going to my first Reeb Rave with my wife Terri. We were pretty new to Reeb, and we thought we'd check out the annual fundraiser. We were amazed how an auction event really felt more like a party; it was joyful and completely homegrown. We were impressed that so many of the auction items were invitations to meals, hikes, and other events where you could get to know people better. It is no surprise to me that we have made some of our best friends here.

Having been at Reeb for 20+ years, I've seen many changes in our building, our staff, and our programs. Through many changes, the heart of this place is what keeps me connected to the Reeb community. James Reeb UU Congregation is small and mighty, with dreams of inviting more people through our doors. We have visitors every week, and I want folks to know that there is room for them here and the opportunity to feel that same warm welcome I first felt. **Each of you helps make that happen every week!**

As we begin our pledge drive in March, members of our beloved community will be reaching out as **Visiting Stewards** for personal conversations about how **we can all be stewards** of this amazing congregation. As UUs, we all plant seeds of love, resistance, community, and resilience among those in our circles and beyond. We are hoping that these conversations will strengthen connections with our congregation and your commitment to our mission and vision. We have more pledgers than Visiting Steward capacity, so not everyone will be reached out to; please contact one of us if you'd like to have a conversation and haven't been contacted by Sunday, March 8.

This pledge drive is to support the 2026-2027 fiscal year (which starts on July 1). **We're committed to creating a balanced budget** that will support continued fair compensation for our minister and staff, regular increases in administrative and building maintenance costs, and an increased contribution to the UUA Annual Program Fund. Our [current draft budget](#) includes a surplus, which would bolster our Building Maintenance and/or Emergency/Opportunity Reserve Funds; these funds become more important as our building ages. Both versions require an increase in pledge income; here are the total and average increases (for our 82 pledgers):

- **Current draft budget** includes a \$20,000 total increase, which yields a \$6,000 surplus
 - We can reach this goal with an **average increase of \$20/month** (\$243 annual) per pledger
- **Balanced budget** (no surplus) includes a \$14,000 total increase
 - We can reach this goal with an **average increase of \$14/month** (\$171 annual) per pledger

We're also planning on increases in income from rentals and the Reeb Rave, following the trends we're seeing in this year's income.

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Together, our contributions (of all amounts!) give us the resources we need to fund our justice work, staff, our ministries and programs, and bring joy and support to our community. Here's a link to a [contribution guide](#) that you might find helpful as you consider your pledge for the coming year. We operate under a sustained giving model, so your current pledge will continue as is, unless you change it. Submitting a [financial commitment form](#) (whether or not you want to change your current pledge) allows us to plan and dream for the future. **We ask that you submit your form by April 1.**

Our webminder has created a handy page with all this information and more for this year's drive - please [click here](#) to access that.

With gratitude for all you bring to our congregation,

Your Executive Committee:

Rachel Avery, President, JRUUC Board of Trustees

Virginia Harrison, President-elect, JRUUC Board of Trustees

Rev. Karen Armina, Minister