



**First Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the Palm Beaches**

635 Prosperity Farms Road
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

January 8, 2023

Dear Friends,

Today is the beginning of the 2023/24 Stewardship Drive. I hear that a lot of congregations have their pledge drives a little later in the calendar year, but I feel like it is appropriate that we are doing it at the beginning of the year. The theme for our campaign this year is: **Our Circle of Belonging**. Each Sunday for the rest of this month there will be a particular sub-theme. This Sunday's is: Renewing Our Circle of Belonging. And that is just what we hope to do with our pledging this year.

We are starting a new calendar year, and we hope to have many new things happening this year. We have moved and continue to move into a new normal after COVID has so affected us. We will continue to have more activities together, while we also care for those who are not with us physically for many reasons; our snowbirds, some that are more or less housebound, those who may be taking extra care during flu seasons, and even at least one who doesn't live nearby enough to be here often!

We hope to be welcoming a new minister this coming year. We have been so happy and grateful to have Rev. Ed with us for these past 2½ years. He has been a great blessing to us in so many ways. And, we have also longed for a more permanent ministry for a while now. We hope to find that match this year.

New year, New phase, New normal, New ministry. **Renewing Our Circle of Belonging**. Let's remember why we come here: our personal growth, our community with each other, and our commitment to each other, our justice actions to the larger community and the world. During the services this month, we hope to be reminding you of the many ways Our Circle of Belonging serves you and others. Let's continue to make it a reality.

For the Nuts and Bolts: The attached letter will be personalized with your data, related to your pledging last year. You will have a couple options, one of which will be the target option will be related to your percentage of the total pledges last year relative to the total pledge goal the board has decided upon of \$170,000, and of course, a blank option where you can write in an amount not particularly related to last year's pledge. Please return your form in the way that suits you best: by mail with the enclosed envelope, dropping off to Kim in the office, or with our online form (<http://1stuupb.org/?p=48956>),

There will also be a Budget meeting on Zoom on Thursday, January 12, at 7 PM to explain the draft budget the board has settled on so far for the 2023/24 year. Included at the meeting will be information about proposed bylaw changes regarding the Committee on Ministry related to the covenant of right relations that was adopted recently. The meeting will be recorded so do not worry if you cannot make it, it will be made available for viewing later.

Let's **Renew Our Circle of Belonging!**

Your Pledge Drive Team