



# TOLEDO UNITARIANS

First Unitarian Church of Toledo | 3205 Glendale Ave. | Toledo OH | 43614-2423 | [uutoledo.org](http://uutoledo.org)  
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January 31, 2018

Dear Toledo Unitarians,

It's time for the annual letter as we start our stewardship campaign. Yes, we're asking for your pledges to support First Unitarian Church of Toledo over the next fiscal year, from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. We hope you'll increase the amount you give—we say that every year. Changes in religious commitment in society mean that congregants are a bit more responsible for making sure their giving is enough to keep their religious institutions thriving and making a difference. Add in tax changes that lessen attention to charitable giving, and your support is even more essential.

The stewardship campaign, taking place from February 4 to March 4, is how we set our annual budget. It's done far enough in advance so we can present a complete budget at our annual meeting—scheduled this year for noon on Sunday, May 20, a week before Memorial Day weekend.

There are other forms of giving, but the annual pledge is the core of our financial planning. We also have capital campaigns (we recently completed one capital campaign, and plan to have another one beginning next year; if you'd like to keep giving your capital pledge amount in this “fallow” year in addition to your regular pledge, of course that's welcome) and bequests and your participation in our bazaar and auction. Plus, the money in the Sunday offering plate not designated for pledges helps us with our budget and gives opportunities to give to congregational, local, and national causes.

When we ask for your help with our budget by making a solid pledge commitment, we request that you give generously but responsibly. We know that people have different challenges regarding money, that some people find ways to give more than they pledged, and others might not be able to reach the commitment of even \$87 a year, the amount per member that goes as “dues” beyond Toledo to the Central East Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Keep that amount in mind; last year we started asking you to make that amount a separate “over and above” your pledge commitment—and, with that, we learned that we were among the top five in increased giving to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Remember that your pledges can be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, or in a different arrangement. You can put your contributions in the offering plate or have them automatically withdrawn from your bank account.

It takes a lot to keep First Unitarian making a difference in the world, a presence in Toledo and northwest Ohio, and a religious home for you. Please consider making a major financial commitment to the Toledo Unitarians.

Yours with thanks,

REV. TIM

Rev. Tim Barger, Minister

*Terry L. McCauley*

Terry McCauley, President of the Congregation