



First Unitarian Universalist
CONGREGATION OF ANN ARBOR

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To: Members and Friends of First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

From: Tom Darton and Beth Hospadaruk, Stewardship Committee Co-chairs

Re: Tending the Flame on Celebration Sunday, November 8, 2009

Your opportunity to Tend the Flame of our congregation is at hand. Enclosed with this letter is your Pledge Form, with which you will declare your contribution to keeping our chalice burning brightly in the coming year. As a congregation, we will gather on Sunday, November 8th, to celebrate our ongoing commitment to each other and to the world with which we are engaged.

We have much to celebrate. Last year, in the midst of the worst economic climate most of us have ever known, we raised more money for our common purpose than ever before in our history. In the summer months we weathered a severe cash flow problem by accelerating our excellent staff's plan to do more with less. We increased our outreach efforts: there are more of us engaged with meaningful activities within the congregation (from social justice to pastoral care), and, largely through our "sharing the plate" program, we put more money to work doing charitable work with our community than ever before. Our redesigned pastoral care committee is reaching more people. We have done a better job of caring for our land and our buildings, and we have found new ways to share our property with others. We have simultaneously gotten better at functioning as a large church and at engaging with each other in chalice circles and other more immediately personal activities. Our choir has grown and produced a CD. Attendance at Sunday worship has grown. We have improved our ability to make timely and effective financial and policy decisions.

Yes, these are hard times. Some of us have felt the impact of the hard times directly; all of us share in the pain of those around us who are struggling to make the necessary adjustments. Each of us can Tend the Flame by increasing our engagement with the community in the ways that most fit our individual circumstances. Those of us in need can engage by expressing the need and accepting the support of others. Those of us who are in a position to share and to give can engage by connecting with individuals and by supporting the congregation through a meaningful pledge.

Your pledge form is enclosed. We ask that you take time between now and Celebration Sunday to reflect with your family and appreciate how important it is that our congregation continue to develop as a loving, caring and capable community. For that to happen, each of us must make a pledge and those of us who remain able to do so must find a way to increase our financial support for the congregation. In these difficult times, we must make every possible effort required to Tend the Flame. Please bring your completed pledge form to church on Sunday, November 8 and join us in celebration of what more we can become.

Tom Darton
Co-Chair, Stewardship Committee

Beth Hospadaruk
Co-Chair, Stewardship Committee