



Be The Way



UUCB Stewardship for the 2026-2027

What a wonderful year we've had at UUCB! We have new people coming through our doors almost every Sunday, and it brings us **joy** to see more children in our midst. Our Youth Group and Coming of Age programs are active, as is "Our Whole Lives" sexuality education program for teens. The energy among us is palpable. The building is bustling with meetings and events. Our staff and members are more engaged in the community than ever before. The world is changing, and **we are rising** to meet its challenges.

The world needs us. We should all be proud of who we are and what we do as UUs in times like this. In order to keep our faith strong and our efforts effective, we are annually called to support our congregation in whatever ways we can - with our Time, our Talent and our Treasure. This year's stewardship campaign theme is "**Be the Way**".

We have accomplished a lot this year - much of that in partnership with similarly focused organizations. A major UUCB goal this year was to mitigate the multifaceted problems of the local houseless population as well as to help increase the stock of low-income housing. By raising funds for the **Southern Door Community Land Trust** (almost \$6,000) and helping them with grant writing, UUCB has helped "jump-start" SDCLT's development of low-income permanent housing. Partnering with **Family Enrichment Network**, we have provided bus passes to low-income neighbors who have no transportation. Teaming with **No Name Collective**, we weekly supply our most vulnerable houseless brethren with food and other necessary supplies. Furthermore, we partnered with **The Beloved Community** to facilitate a "Beloved BBQ" that provided family fun, 563 free meals and even 65 free haircuts! Moreover, UUCB has joined a multi-church coalition, initiated by **Christ Episcopal Church**, to coordinate outreach to our houseless brothers and sisters in Binghamton. That collaboration has already resulted in \$500 given to us for bus passes from **Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church**.

Beyond our outreach successes, we retired our renovations loan to Visions FCU and obtained an excess of over \$15,000 that we used to start paying off our UUCB renovation Endowment Loan.

We continue to partner with the Athens and Cortland UU congregations in new and relevant ways to help sustain those congregations and develop ours more deeply.

However, there is so much more to do! **With your help**, the Board hopes to accomplish the following goals this coming year.

1. Adequately fund childcare staffing so that parents can attend all of our events. This is a moral imperative, as well as a way to increase active membership.
2. Adequately fund our Property budget line to keep our building and facilities properly maintained.
3. Increase our staff wages 3% to hedge inflation and to reward our excellent staff.
4. Continue to grow our partnerships and maybe even fund an "Event Coordinator".

Indeed, there are many ways to support our beloved UUCB community. All of them are needed, as we, individually as well as collectively, "**Be the Way**" to accomplish our worthy mission. Love can come in various forms, from a generous offering of treasure to donation of time and/or talent. Our pledge goal for the 2026-2027 Stewardship Campaign is **\$276,579**. Please return your pledge cards by **March 31**, so our Treasurer can create a timely preliminary budget. If you wish to know what you pledged last year, log into Realm or contact the Pledge Secretary (pledgesec@uubinghamton.org). **Thank you for your support!**

In service with love,

President, Tim Wolcott

Board Stewardship Team