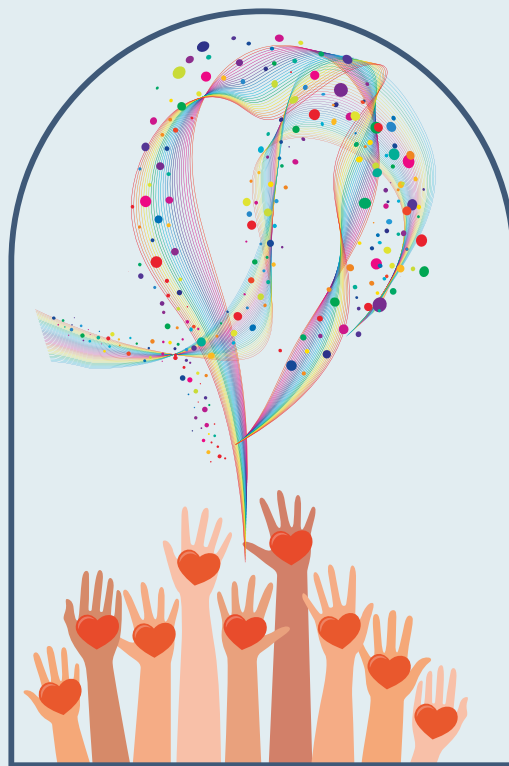


# Stewardship 2025-2026

LEAD WITH LOVE



Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dear Members and Friends,

Once again it is time to support our church with gifts to our annual stewardship campaign. We continue our theme from last year, LEAD WITH LOVE. As we look to the year ahead, we invite you to make a pledge to our church reflecting the value and impact of our programs and services that nurture our spiritual lives and strengthen our wider community.

Now, more than ever, our programs and services are essential in offering solace, building connections, and providing opportunities for growth and positive change.

LEAD WITH LOVE is about the transforming power of love, living our values, and opening our hearts to ensure that we continue to care for and sustain our beloved community.

Our church is a vibrant community that nurtures our spirits and inspires us to make a difference in the world. Your financial support directly funds the programs that enrich our lives and empower us to live our values.

In a world facing numerous challenges, the need for community, spiritual grounding, and meaningful action is greater than ever. The funds we raise through annual pledges help us to continue offering vital programs that support the spiritual, ethical, and social growth of every member of our congregation. From uplifting worship services to our commitment to social justice and pastoral care, your pledge helps sustain the life-changing work we do together.

This booklet shares information about how money is spent at UU Nashua and the connection to our values. Each of you is an integral part of our congregation, and we want you to know how your commitments make a difference.

Please consider making a generous pledge. Individual generosity is the lifeblood of our congregation and ensures that our church can continue to be a source of hope, strength, and service for years to come... leading with love in all we do.

Yours in gratitude and generosity,  
Rev. Allison & The Stewardship Team



LEAD WITH LOVE 



# CARING FOR OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY

In **2024**, our focus was on increasing our staff compensation and benefits to approach fair compensation based on the UUA salary guidance.

**REMINDER:** Our staff salaries were increased last year but still do **not** meet the salary guidance from the UUA's Congregational Salary Program and Fair Compensation Program.



**FAIR  
COMPENSATION**



While **2025** presents us with significant challenges—a world marked by uncertainty, division, and struggle—it also underscores the vital importance of community, spiritual grounding, and meaningful action.

**Now more than ever, we need spaces where we can live our values, nurture our spirits, and strengthen our connections.**

## OUR VALUES:

Wonder, Authentic Connection, Courageous Community, & Love In Action



**WONDER**

has dual meanings. There is the wonder in thoughtful questioning, curiosity, investigation. And there is the awe and wonder we feel in nature, in relationship with each other, in thinking about the vastness of our universe.



**AUTHENTIC  
CONNECTION**

is a way of engaging that takes us deeper than the surface interaction we may have in other communities we are a part of. We seek to be real with one another, to engage with honesty and vulnerability.



**COURAGEOUS  
COMMUNITY**

calls us to engage with one another and out in the world with courage. We are courageous in how we are together, and being together gives us courage to do bold work in our world.



**LOVE IN ACTION**

speaks to both the spirit of love in our congregation and the fact that it is not a passive love. Instead, the love we embody is just that – it is embodied in the way we live with each other and the way we spread that love out into the world.



**LEAD WITH LOVE**



# LIVING OUR VALUES

**Our church programs embody our values and lie at the heart of our community.** They inspire wonder, generosity, and courage. They offer solace, build connections, and provide opportunities for growth and positive change.

## OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST YEAR:



Our worship services are a source of comfort, inspiration, and shared reflection, in times of joy and sorrow. Through music, ritual, and words, we are reminded of what truly matters in life.

- 55 worship services



Our choir and music program provide a space for beauty, joy, and spiritual connection that lifts us up. Through song, we find strength and solace.

- 45 Choir anthems
- 34 Solo/small group anthems



Our faith formation programs provide an opportunity to explore, reflect, and learn in a nurturing spiritual community.

- 27 Sunday programs for children & youth
- 18 OWL classes
- 105 Programs for adults



Our programs foster connection and belonging, build community, and provide compassionate support to members when it is needed most.

- 24 Support group sessions
- 14 Multigenerational fellowship events
- 117 Regular volunteers



Our social justice groups actively engage in projects, fund critical advocacy work, and stand alongside the most vulnerable in our community.

- 10 Community events
- 20 Community organizing meetings & trainings
- \$33,300 given to 15 local nonprofits

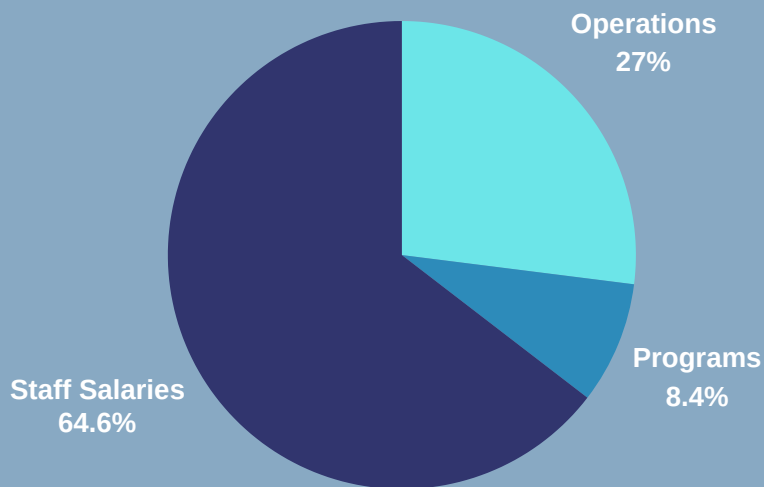
# CONSIDERING OUR EXPENSES

## ONE WAY TO CONSIDER OUR EXPENSES:

Look at how the money is used in specific budget categories. *We see that, like many other nonprofits, most of our budget goes to staff costs. We are grateful to have a dedicated staff team at UU Nashua!*

- **Staff Salaries** includes compensation and benefits for staff members.
- **Operations** includes administration, communications, stewardship, UUA annual program fund, and property. Property is the largest portion of operations.
- **Programs** encompasses Worship, Music, Faith Formation, Membership, Social Justice, and Leadership.

## BUDGET CATEGORIES



## ANOTHER WAY TO CONSIDER OUR EXPENSES:

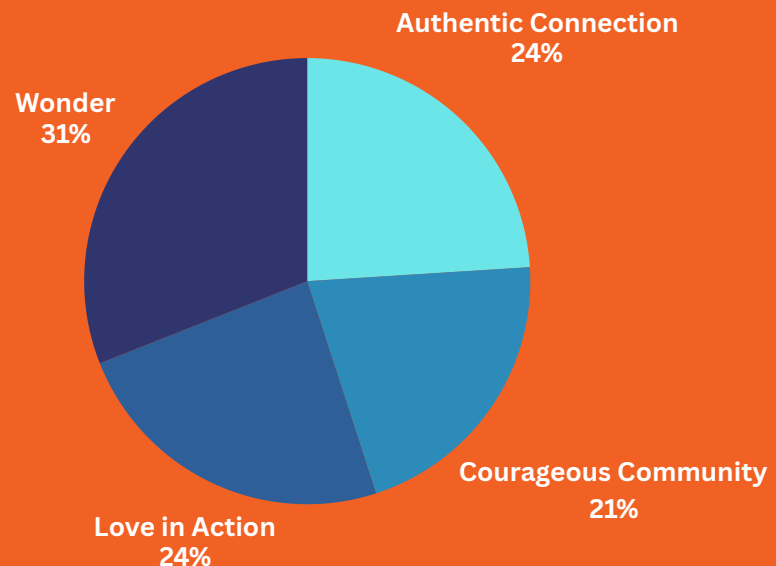
Look at how the money is used in support of our values. Our programs and services directly reflect our mission and values.

**Mission:** We are a welcoming community of faith, inspiring lives of wonder, generosity, and courage, serving the world through love in action.

### Values:

- **Wonder** includes Worship, Music, and half of the Faith Formation program.
- **Authentic Connection** includes half of the Faith Formation program, Welcoming, Fellowship, and Pastoral Care.
- **Courageous Community** includes Leadership, Stewardship, Communications, and our Intern program.
- **Love in Action** includes our Social Justice and Service work.

## PROGRAM CATEGORIES





# OPENING OUR HEARTS

We are asking the congregation to **LEAD WITH LOVE** by living our values and helping to continue our important programs and services that nurture and strengthen our community.



The challenge we face is that the costs of maintaining our current programs rise by approximately 5% annually, necessitating a corresponding increase in income.

Our pledge goal is \$425,000, which is approximately 5% higher than last year's budget.



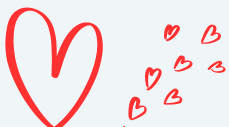
**PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR PLEDGE BY 5% OR MORE, OR MAKING A PLEDGE FOR THE FIRST TIME.**



*Let's show how the transforming power of love can make a difference!*



**LEAD WITH LOVE**



# CONSIDERING YOUR PLEDGE

## What is a pledge?

Each year, our budget is built off the pledges we receive from our members and friends during our annual Stewardship Campaign. Your pledge is a promise to support our ministries and programs throughout the congregational year with a financial gift. When you make your annual pledge, you tell us how much you will be contributing during our church fiscal year, July 1 through June 30. We ask that you make your pledge annually because we make a new budget every year, and we need to know the amount of funds that will be available to support our programs and ministries.



*LEAD WITH LOVE logo by Ellie Geyer*

## How much should I give?

This is not an unusual question, but there's no one answer for everyone. We hope you can be generous with your financial resources in a way that gives you joy in recognizing your part in furthering our mission. We invite everyone to be on a path of giving 5% of your income per year, or to consider all the charitable giving you hope to do in a year, and pledge half of that amount to the congregation.

## How to pledge?

Together, we can **LEAD WITH LOVE** so that our church can continue to be a place of wonder, community, connection, and love in action. To that end, we invite you to join in making a commitment using the enclosed pledge form or our online form for the upcoming 2025-2026 church year by March 2, 2025. Please give generously to this year's UU Nashua Stewardship Campaign.

Making your commitment on or before March 2, 2025 will enable us to prepare a balanced budget for 2025-2026. Thank you for all that you give to our church community!



**LEAD WITH LOVE** 



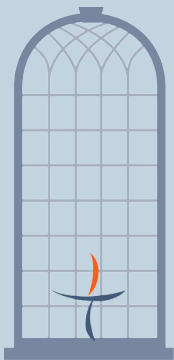
## LEAD WITH LOVE

For more information, go to the Stewardship page on our website at <https://uunashua.org/give/stewardship/>

If you have questions, please contact the stewardship team at [stew@uunashua.org](mailto:stew@uunashua.org)

### **UUCN Stewardship Team**

- Caitlin Durgin
- Donna LaRue
- Ericka LaValley, Staff Liaison
- Kenna McLeod, Co-chair
- Rev. Allison Palm, Staff Liaison
- David Price, Co-chair



Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Nashua, NH

