

♪ *Don't Stop Believin'* ♪ - UUCSC 2021-2022 Pledge Drive

Let's take a Journey. Two years ago our UUCSC Choir surprised the service attendees with their choreographed version of the 1981 pop song *Don't Stop Believin'* by the rock group Journey. The standing ovation was amazing and demonstrated the energy and passion of our Choir and our Congregation.



Borrowing the title of the song and the Choir's performance, your Stewardship Committee has chosen that phrase, *Don't Stop Believin'*, for this year's Annual Pledge Drive. Exactly one year ago we kicked off our pledge drive at the last in-person UUCSC for 2020 as the then unknown Coronavirus was taking hold in the U.S. A year later we're still not meeting in person.

During that time our congregation has seen amazing things. Rev. DL and our Director of Music Michael Galib provided audio services each Sunday throughout this whole time! Recently videos have become available including performances from our Choir, the most recent the video titled L-O-V-E, a Valentine's Day Special. Zoom Coffee Hours have become a regular Sunday morning event helping to keep us connected to each other.

Virtual meetings and gatherings have carried on the important work of our congregation. Amazingly, thanks to the tireless work of our Board of Directors, Finance Committee and others, UUCSC has received a grant of \$24,000 from the federal PPP program which will help offset the loss of donations from the Holiday Fair and Dining for Dollars among other things.

Our Finance and Facilities Committees, assisted by other tireless volunteers, made possible the conversion of our old oil fueled heating system to natural gas. This eliminated the need for expensive repairs to the boiler and replacement of a deteriorating oil tank, all while reducing our energy cost and our carbon footprint. Additional energy-saving repairs and upgrades were also performed. These efforts are already rewarding us with lower heating bills. All this happened, again, during our Covid-19 shutdown.

And most importantly, our congregation has generously continued to send in their donations. Without your financial commitment UUCSC could not exist. So this year we ***Won't Stop Believin'***. We'll continue *Believin'* in the power of community, the generosity of congregants, the strength of our elected and appointed leaders, and in each other.

This is the start of our Annual Pledge Drive. Our budget planning process puts our pledge income at \$175,000 resulting in a \$25,000 deficit. Our stretch goal is to receive pledges totaling \$200,000. So we're asking everyone to consider increasing their pledge to help fully fund our congregation's work by making a written pledge for our coming congregational year which begins on July 1, 2021 and runs through June 30, 2022. **Please click [HERE](#) to print out a Pledge Card, fill it out, sign it and mail it back to UUCSC, 27 North Road, Peace Dale, RI, 02879 before April 4, 2021.**

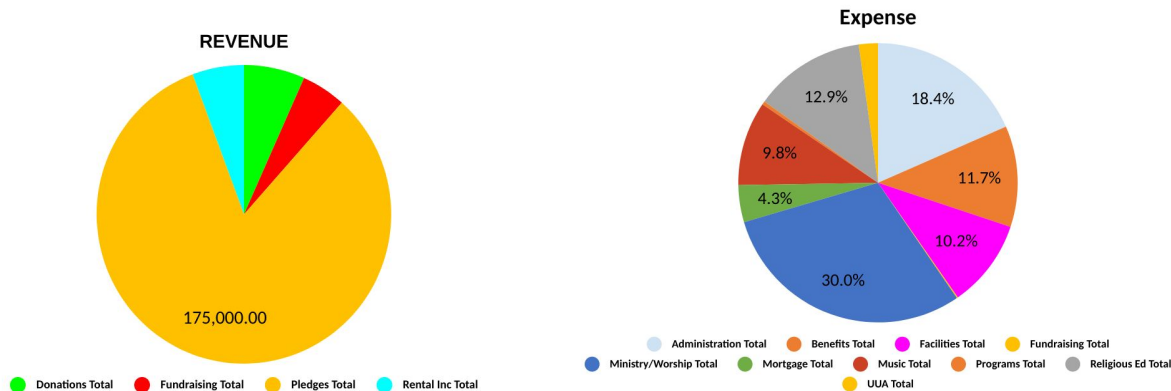
Additionally, we are celebrating the \$220,000 reduction of our Lily Pads mortgage, leaving a little over \$100,000 remaining. This has benefited UUCSC by reducing our annual mortgage payment from just over \$30,000 in June 2019 to just under \$10,000 today. This has allowed our congregation to devote the over \$20,000 annual savings to ministry, programs and our beloved Lily Pads. If you have not yet completed your Our Living Legacy pledge to help reduce our mortgage even further, please consider doing so now.

Finally, we are asking any and all who are willing to make a *special one-time donation* to help offset the \$20,000 cost of our heating system conversion and energy savings work. Please consider a special donation specifically for this important work if you are in a position to do so.

So Don't Stop Believin', hold on to that feeling. Your financial support makes it all possible. Thank you for your continued commitment.

Stewardship Committee: Dennis Bowman, Sky Kimball, Dave Ruede

Access the link to UUA Fair Share Giving Guide [HERE](#).



2021 - 2022 Preliminary Budget (Subject to Changes and Congregational Approval)