



Dear friends,  
The famous *Sonnet 43* by the English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning begins:

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach...*

This year, as the theme of our annual pledge campaign, we are asking you, our beloved members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County, to **Show Your Love For UUCSC**.

So it is quite natural to ask, how do we love this place? First, let us count the ways.

We love this congregation, of course, when we join together in worship each week. It is the time when we lift up what is most worthwhile, most worthy, in word and song and music. Speaking for myself, the times most recently when we have been able to meet face-to-face have stood out in sharp relief. The wonderful music from our music director, Mike Galib, and the hymns sung by our fantastic choir, have all resonated for me with extra poignancy. The talks and sermons often seem to speak directly to me. I think we all treasure these times that we have together.

We also recognize that some of us just are not yet ready to resume meeting in person on Sundays. To meet that need, we have continued and enhanced our virtual services too. And haven't they been great? We have had a series of outstanding speakers, thanks to the diligence of our Worship Committee. Rev. Denis Paul, our new minister, has jumped right in with great energy, vision, wisdom and humor in his sermons, and wow, have we seen the congregation respond! Our online Coffee Hour after Sunday services has been transformed into a *ministerial reflection* hour—a time both to greet our many UUCSC friends, and to listen and be heard in discussing what is truly on our hearts.

I feel that each week when we gather for services, whether in person or online, one of the things that happens is that we are telling each other “I care about you, and I can feel that you care about me too.” And isn't that a wonderful way to show our love?

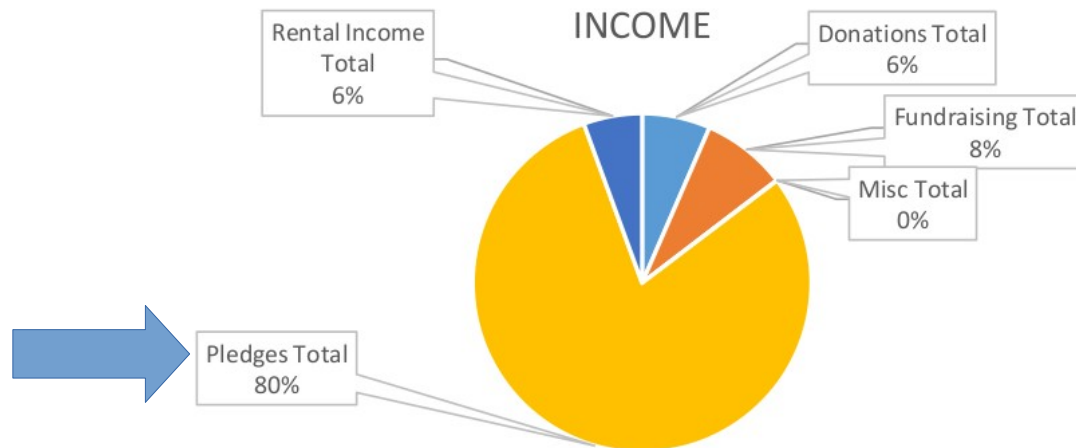
We have shown that we can find hope. We are resilient. Our congregation is finding other ways to reach out to each other, to urge each other to keep going in the midst of everything. Every time we phone a friend, pay a visit, send a “how's it going” text, invite someone out for coffee, or share a video chat, we are also saying “I care about you, I have not given up, and don't you give up either.” Truly, we are *sharing our love*.

This is echoed in so many other ways at UUCSC. In our fabulous and dedicated staff members who all work diligently to make our congregation run like clockwork. In the many dedicated people who volunteer to do the work of our committees, pitching in to do all the other work that's needed to keep the whole place going. In our ministry toward justice in the wider community, stronger than ever.

Those are just a few of the ways we love our congregation. The next thing to ask is, how does *our own annual pledge* show that love?

So, we do have a thriving community, and there are great things ahead of us. And here's the thing: we elect our Board of Directors each year, and we charge them with making the decisions that will set the direction for us as a congregation. Our pledges are a key part part of *painting the big picture* for them financially, of the resources the congregation can expect to have in the coming fiscal year.

This is where your annual pledge of financial support comes in. Did you know that the vast majority of our income—80%—comes from pledges?



So you can see that your pledge is *very important!* Now, let's be clear. We know that some people can give more, and others less. But for everyone, it is an important spiritual exercise to sit down, think about how much you care about UUCSC, and evaluate how much you can pledge, no matter what amount you decide to pledge. This is one more way that you can *show your love for UUCSC*.

We ask you to do this, so that we can shine a clear light onto the path ahead for our beloved congregation.

So in conclusion, we are asking you to do these 3 simple steps:

1. Reflect on what UUCSC means for you today, and what you envision for us in the future. Try to be as detailed as possible when you do this, so you have a very clear picture.
2. Consider carefully what you are able to pledge to support UUCSC. As part of this process, please also consider whether you are in a position to increase the amount you are pledging.
  - Don't worry if you aren't completely certain about it. We just need your good-faith estimate.
  - If you find later on that you need to change your pledge amount for any reason, you can just let us know. We understand that the unexpected sometimes happens.
3. Once you have determined your pledge amount, please fill out and sign the enclosed Annual Pledge Card, and return it right away, using the enclosed envelope.

Finally, thank you for being a part of this wonderful community, and for *Showing Your Love For UUCSC!*

Sincerely,

Sky Kimball, member of the Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Committee:

Mary Fulton  
Debbie Johnson  
Sky Kimball