



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Pondering Pledging

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Committee Chairperson

It will soon be the annual Pledge Drive season at UUFW when we members and friends decide how much we promise to contribute to support the Fellowship in the upcoming fiscal year, July 1-June 30. The pledges we make typically cover around 86% of the budget.

How much we pledge is a reflection of not only our income, but also of how important our Fellowship is to us personally and how much we want to keep it thriving and growing. Generosity is relative. Last year's pledges ranged from \$250 to \$10,000. We obviously need many pledges toward the higher end in order to keep UUFW as a beacon of liberal religion in the Valley. It is quite possible that a pledge of \$250 is more "generous" than one of \$10,000. It depends on individual circumstances.

This has recently gotten me thinking about Doug's and my journey of contributing to the churches in our life. When we were VISTA volunteers in West Virginia, we would occasionally attend a church service and put a dollar or two in the plate. When Doug was in law school and I was at home caring for our baby and three-year old, we joined what is now the UU Congregation of Charlottesville. We were somehow able to pledge a small amount. When we were living in France, we became members of the Church of the Larger Fellowship and received letters from the minister and packets of activities for the children. We sent a contribution.

The average attendance at Sunday services in January was 62 adults and 5 children.

Two years after returning to the United States, we discovered UUFW after feeble attempts to get our family to Charlottesville on Sunday morning. Have we been truly generous through the years in our pledging? Maybe not, but I think we are getting better and it feels good. Our financial circumstances enable us to pledge more. At the same time, it seems our Fellowship means more and more to us.

We members and friends of UUFW value diversity and are diverse in our financial situations, which often, like Doug's and mine, change over time. However, for almost all of us, UUFW is an important part of our lives and we are committed to supporting it generously in accordance with our income. Every pledge is needed and appreciated. So, as we are considering how much to pledge this year, let's aim to come up with an amount that feels really good to us personally. If we can do that, UUFW will continue to thrive and grow.



Bingo Nite at the UUFW was a blast! And it raised \$560 for our programs and services.