

## 2018 – Lighting the Path

For many of us, 2017 was a dark and difficult time. Yet it is important for us as a faith community to recognize that we are not hopeless or helpless. Our UU Principles can nurture us, and our community gives us strength to remain resilient. Both exemplify this year's Canvass, "lighting the path."

Each spring, members and friends of UUC vote with their pocketbooks, as well as their time and talents, to determine what we will be able to do as a body through the coming year. For many, **powerful preaching** takes precedence in allocating our shared financial resources. Other's value UUC most for the **sense of community** that feeds our spirits. UUC is well-known as a beacon of **social justice** through our participation, for example, in FAST - Faith and Strength Together, Black Lives Matter and supporting refugees. **Musical celebration** ranks high on most lists, as does **Religious Education**.

UUC pledging members and friends do not have to choose among these priorities. Gifts to the annual canvass reinforce all of them and elevate our ability to light the path forward both within and far beyond the Octagon.

If you also are part of the 54% of Americans who own stocks, consider this: The Dow Jones average has risen 25% over the past year. That is HUGE. For example, an average \$100,000 portfolio has increased \$25,000! Under the new tax code, you still may make a gift of appreciated stock without penalties. The opportunity to be generous has never been easier.

Please take a moment now to review the Annual Pledge Drive brochure that is enclosed. Also enclosed is your pledge notice for 2017-2018, so you can see how much you gave last year. If you have made the same pledge for several years or not pledged at all, this is the year to increase your pledge. Please consider a generous increase of 5% or more for the coming year!

The pledge form that is enclosed may be dropped in the mail, in the collection basket on Sunday or into the Pledge Box in the church foyer. **We need your response before the Canvass ends on April 8. Earlier is better so we can track how we are doing.**

Whatever your circumstances, we count on you to put your commitment to UUC into action by pledging a financial contribution for the 2018-2019 budget. Do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your generous support of UUC and our shared commitment to be a beacon that lights a path forward for our members, our friends and for the larger community.

In faith,

Susan, Bill and Mary

Susan Gore and Bill Foley  
Co-chairs, 2018-2019 Annual Pledge Drive

Mary Currey  
Chair, Stewardship Committee