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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AT WASHINGTON CROSSING

April 2026



Finance Committee Update

by Sandee Steinberg, Chair, Finance Committee

We are in the final stages of preparing the church budget for fiscal year 2026–2027, which runs from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

The process began in late fall 2025, when we asked committees, ministries, and staff to estimate their expenses and anticipated income. The Personnel Committee provided projections for staff costs, including a cost-of-living adjustment. Using this information, we worked with the Board and the Stewardship Committee to set a goal for the annual pledge campaign.

Now that the pledge campaign is nearing completion, we can compile this information and develop a draft budget. Thank you to everyone who has pledged. Your support enables us to continue UUCWC's work and make more informed financial decisions.

This year brought some uncertainty, particularly regarding the assistant minister position. As Rev. Kim announced, we were unable to hire for that role for the coming year. We have revised the draft budget accordingly and presented it to the Board. As of this writing, we are awaiting final pledge numbers. While we still anticipate a deficit budget, it is significantly smaller than originally projected. In discussions with

the Board, we have also explored creative ways to increase income and reduce expenses.

We will share more detailed budget information with the congregation in the coming weeks. In May, the Board, Treasurer Denny Rodgers, and I will host two listening circles to review the budget and gather your feedback. Please watch for dates and times in upcoming church communications and plan to attend if you can—your input is important.

Our annual budget meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 31. At that time, Denny and I will present a detailed overview of the proposed budget and UUCWC's current financial position, and we will answer your questions. The full proposed budget will be shared in advance for your review.

The congregation will vote on the budget at the annual meeting in June. At that meeting, only a high-level summary will be presented, so we encourage you to ask detailed questions beforehand—either at the budget meeting, by contacting Denny (treasurer@uucwc.org) or me (finance@uucwc.org), or by speaking with us at church.



UUCWC and General Assembly

By Holly Bussey, Liaison, Denominational Affairs

Greetings. This year's UU General Assembly will be held entirely virtually. Here's how that will affect us.

Rather than organizing group participation in June, we plan to share selected highlights later in the year. This will include key lectures, such as the Ware Lecture, featuring retired Rev. Mariann Budde, and opportunities for group discussion.

Given the many changes and adjustments our congregation is currently navigating, Rev. Kim and I think it will be best to wait and offer a more structured experience when materials are freely available.

If you are interested in learning more about the June conference or participating on your own, please contact me at DA@uucwc.org.



Spotlight on Pastoral and Caring Ministry

By Martha Bell, Congregational Engagement

At UUCWC, we celebrate life! Our care for one another means sharing joys and sorrows during Sunday services, reaching out with messages of sympathy and congratulations, sometimes sitting with someone who needs a deeper conversation, providing meals and support during illness or other loss, and supporting memorial services.

The pastoral and caring ministry makes much of this care possible. Co-chaired by Pat Braender and Linda Vogt and facilitated by Rev. Kim, this ministry works to identify, reach out to, and support people in our congregation during times of need and celebration.

Why Participate in the Pastoral and Caring Ministry?

Most of us deeply want to help and care for others. By participating in the pastoral and caring ministry, you can make a real difference in others' lives. The assistance this ministry offers goes both ways, deepening UUCWC's sense of community and

providing real help to those who need support. We show, over and over, that we can count on each other.

How Can You Participate?

The ministry welcomes volunteers to help with tasks such as providing hosts and lunch for memorial services, writing letters and cards, making house visits, offering rides or meals, and other support for UUCWC members in need.

Because much of their work is confidential, the core group consists of congregational members who have requested to join. However, anyone can volunteer to help via the Lotsa Helping Hands [website](#) (the link is also included in the Weekly Caring Notes email).

More About Pastoral and Caring Ministry

The ministry offers a range of solutions tailored to the needs of those being helped. For example, the people who deliver meals may stay for a conversation, or they may arrange to leave food in a cooler to better meet a person's needs. The group provides short-term help in many ways. Long-term care is not provided (e.g., no childcare, healthcare, or nursing care).

Members of the core group each bring their unique blend of skills to the ministry. They take great care when encouraging people to ask for help, to meet each person's needs, and to respect their confidentiality and autonomy. If you would like to volunteer as a member of the group, contact us at caring@uucwc.org and we'll discuss how your skills might support this important ministry.

The group meets quarterly and maintains a list of people who might need assistance. If needed, a ministry member will be assigned to speak with someone on the list.

You can send a joy or sorrow directly to the minister, using this [online form](#). For more information about the Pastoral and Caring Ministry, email caring@uucwc.org.



Auction Update 2026: Sharing Our Joy!

By Barbara Drew, Co-Chair, Auction Committee

UUCWC's largest event—a fundraiser and fun-raiser all in one—is Friday, May 1. Is your calendar marked?

Starting at 6:00 p.m., the Auction Kick-Off Party includes:

- Refreshments—delectable finger foods, beverages, and desserts
- Venetian Coffee Bar—new this year!
- Showcase of about 80 physical items
- Online registration assistance
- The Boutique—jewelry, scarves, wallets, purses, and more
- Mini live auction
- Free childcare (advance registration required)

Tickets are \$30 per person in advance through April 30, or \$35 at the door. Purchase tickets after the April 26 service or through the church website (Giving/Make a Donation page. Please note that your payment is for the party.).

This year's Live Auction will feature 11 items presented by auctioneer Roger Shapiro. Offerings include handcrafted novelties by Roy Vogel, a special painting of our new church façade, a handmade tote bag by new member Ashley Miller, a collection of gift cards, UU chalice jewelry, and more. All items are described in the auction booklet and displayed online.

Online bidding begins Saturday, May 2, at 9:00 a.m. and continues through Saturday, May 9, at 9:00 p.m. To get ready, pick up your free auction booklet with item descriptions after Sunday services.

You can also register and preview items now at the auction website:

<https://uucwcauction.afrogs.org/>

The auction includes two types of purchases:

- Fixed price—buy-it-now items such as events, meals, workshops, and services
- Competitive bid—items such as physical goods, services, getaways, and gift cards

There's something for everyone:

- Functional and beautiful handmade pottery, along with Roy Vogel's entertaining novelties
- Gift cards from local restaurants and businesses—perfect for dining, home projects, and more
- A chance to purchase a sermon of your choice from Rev. Kim
- Services like yard cleanups or help around the house
- Getaways, including a week at a beach house in Rehoboth and a stay at a Poconos inn
- Favorite traditions like the holiday sing-along and Sacred Suds & Mythic Pizza
- New offerings from members, including Thai Dinner, Reflexology, and more

We hope you'll join in. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with others at UUCWC and share our joy while supporting our community.

For questions or more information, email auction@uucwc.org.



Drivers Needed: Help Keep UUCWC's Airport Ride Program Rolling

By Caryl Tipton

As you may know, the UUCWC Transportation Fundraiser was paused during the pandemic. Since restarting in mid-2004, we have collected over \$7,000 in donations for the church. How it works: volunteers respond to requests for rides to and from the Philadelphia or Newark airports, or local train stations. There is a set fee for each destination, which goes to the church, and a small tip for the driver to cover tolls, gas, and other expenses.

With this service, instead of riding with an unknown airport van, Uber, or Lyft driver, you can ride with a trusted and safe driver from UUCWC, and your fee will go to the church. I've enjoyed spending time with new members during the trip and catching up with people I haven't seen in a while. An added bonus has been spending time with those I've known for years but never had the chance to have an extended conversation and get to know them better. A win/win situation for everyone, I'd say! Next time you're traveling, think of us.

At one point, we had seven volunteer drivers. We are now down to four. We need more drivers, especially with vacation months coming up. It's not a major time commitment and happens only occasionally. We want to prevent our current volunteers from burning out and to serve more people when they call for rides.

If you need a ride or want to discuss volunteering, please contact me at transportation@uucwc.org.



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