

CrossCurrents

✦ CREATING COMMUNITY BY KEEPING YOU INFORMED ✦

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AT WASHINGTON CROSSING

NOVEMBER 2025



On Thursday, October 16, a group of members and friends of UUCWC took part in the First Annual Revolutionary Mile, a 1.55-mile run and historical walk through downtown Trenton. Read the article below.

Giving Thanks

By Scott Cullen, CrossCurrents Editor

Thank you for all the positive comments over the months about the newsletter. And thanks for overlooking the occasional typos and formatting errors. This continues to be a work in progress. After 42+ years as a writer and editor, I know that perfection can be elusive.

Anyway, here's the second issue of *CrossCurrents* in Constant Contact. As I mentioned last month, all articles are right here; you don't need to click a link to finish one.

Have a nice Thanksgiving and see you next month!



Finance Committee Update: Budget Process for 2026-2027 Starting Soon

By Sandee Steinberg, Chair, Finance Committee

It's that time again. The initial budget process for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 will start soon. I will reach out to church committees, ministries, and staff to gather initial budget requests and income estimates. Please make sure to check your various emails (personal, church, and committee) for updates.

The budget process involves two rounds: an initial estimate in the Fall and a shorter Spring process to finalize the budget. The main steps for the Fall (including dates) are:

Early November: Finance reaches out to church groups and staff for initial budget requests and income estimates.

Early December: Initial budget requests and income estimates are due.

Mid-to-late December: The Finance Committee creates an initial budget based on the information from the earlier 2 steps.

Early January: The Finance Committee will present the initial budget estimate to the board. The board and stewardship will use those numbers to set a goal for the annual pledge drive.

Treasurer's Report for First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025-2026

By Denny Rodgers, UUCWC Treasurer

Summary Report Sept 2025 YTD Actual vs FY26 Budget
July - September, 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
A1. Plate Collections	10,533.00	34,450.00	-23,917.00	30.57 %
A2. Operating Pledges	158,053.05	439,951.00	-281,897.95	35.93 %
A3. Other Misc Gifts/Contribs	955.00	26,000.00	-25,045.00	3.67 %
B. Fund-Raising	665.00	35,500.00	-34,835.00	1.87 %
E. Other Income	8,744.49	28,300.00	-19,555.51	30.90 %
Total Revenue	\$178,950.54	\$564,201.00	\$ -385,250.46	31.72 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$178,950.54	\$564,201.00	\$ -385,250.46	31.72 %
Expenditures				
A. STAFF	114,182.45	462,619.00	-348,436.55	24.68 %
B. OPERATIONS	42,604.55	113,429.00	-70,824.45	37.56 %
C. PROGRAM	6,115.56	34,070.00	-27,954.44	17.95 %
D. DENOMIN	6,885.00	27,540.00	-20,655.00	25.00 %
E. DEBT SERVICE	6,366.24	25,464.96	-19,098.72	25.00 %
Total Expenditures	\$176,153.80	\$663,122.96	\$ -486,969.16	26.56 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$2,796.74	\$ -98,921.96	\$101,718.70	-2.83 %
NET REVENUE	\$2,796.74	\$ -98,921.96	\$101,718.70	-2.83 %

For this quarter, I am sharing two financial reports prepared by Lynne Quinto, our Controller. After each report, my commentary will highlight key line items for your attention.

Commentary

Total Revenue - Any number at or above 25% in the % of the Budget column above is good news, as we are one quarter into the fiscal year.

Total Expenditures - Any number near 25% reflects that we are on budget for the fiscal year.

Net Revenue - Note that we budgeted for this deficit of roughly \$98,000. At the Annual Meeting, the congregation approved using \$52,000 from non-restricted/reserve cash available (savings) to fund the Assistant Minister's position through June. The remaining \$46,000 represents the shortfall between pledged (and other) income and anticipated expenses and was also approved for payment from savings (See Cash Analysis).

UUCWC-CASH ANALYSIS (With inclusion of operating reserve fund)

CASH IN BANK	Balance
09/30/2025	
Northfield Bank-Operating A/C	\$ 65,195.25
Northfield Bank-Cap Campaign A/C	\$ 6,730.86
Northfield Bank - Cap Campaign Loan Escrow	\$ -
Merrill Lynch-Operating A/C	\$ 419,872.42
Merrill Lynch-Cap Campaign A/C	\$ -
Venmo-Operating A/C	\$ 888.49
Paypal -Operating & Cap Cpgn \$\$	\$ 2,708.15
TOTAL: CASH IN BANK	\$ 495,395.17

LESS: RESERVE FUNDS	Balance
09/30/2025	



Congregational Spotlight: Why Participate in Stewardship?

By Martha Bell, Congregational Engagement

Stewardship is at the core of our current and future success as a congregation. The Stewardship Committee plays a vital role in helping members and friends support the financial health of our church community. Committee members and short-term volunteers find joy and connection by assisting all of us, members and friends of UUCWC, to tap into our own wells of generosity.

How Can You Participate?

Stewardship seeks to communicate the church's financial needs and inspire members with information and encouragement. The main goal is to promote generosity and gratitude. This is achieved by organizing an end-of-year giving event in December, followed by the annual pledge drive usually starting in March. Serving on the Stewardship Committee provides opportunities to express your creativity and passion by helping craft messages that resonate with everyone through writing, designing, presenting, and connecting with the congregation one-on-one. You can also support stewardship through short-term projects. Contact the committee at stewardship@uucwc.org if you're interested in getting involved.

More About Stewardship

Though the committee's energy peaks during two main periods each year, preparing for both the end-of-year event and pledge drive requires significant advance planning. The tasks and activities vary and are often influenced by the design and execution of each initiative, including both short-term and recurring duties. Typically, the committee meets monthly on Zoom, except for June and July. This virtual setup makes participation easier for those whose involvement with UUCWC is primarily online.

Here's what our committee members say about their experience on the Stewardship Committee:

- “For one, I’m a numbers guy. But more importantly, I enjoy engaging the congregation in their generosity, so that the funds needed for the church’s mission can be provided every year.”
- “Feeling enriched by all UUCWC offers, I want to help ensure that those gifts are available to future generations. It’s about providing an avenue for each of us to put our money where our values are.”
- “What we do as members of the stewardship team fulfills the church’s mission. Stewardship is a form of ministry.”
- “Numbers don’t excite me, but stories do. We all need help in seeing what our contributions have made possible and what they could yet do, making storytelling an important part of what we do.”



Walking the Walk on the Revolutionary Mile

By Mary Lou Dahms, Racial Justice Ministry

On Thursday, October 16, a group of members and friends of UUCWC took part in the First Annual Revolutionary Mile, a 1.55-mile run and historical walk through downtown Trenton. We were recognized as the largest team to complete the historical walk, with 16 members and friends, including our own Rev. Kim and Rev. Lisa, who, despite a sprained ankle, bravely navigated the walk, with some

assistance from wheelchair pushers. Pastora Karen Hernandez from our partner church, Westminster Presbyterian in Trenton, also joined our team for the walk.

Following a yellow umbrella-lined route, we passed many landmarks, each commemorating a site of Trenton's rich historical heritage. At each point, we answered questions about Trenton's history and marked them off on our route map.

Walking The Revolutionary Mile was a fun way to support our neighbor to the south along the Delaware, as our country begins its celebrations of 250 years as a nation and a democracy.

We are looking forward to having more UUCWC members and friends join the Racial Justice Ministry for future events and activities. Stay tuned!

Council for Faith in Action News



COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND

Announcing FEFT's New Name

By Holly Bussey, Faith Expression and Funding Team Ministry

The Faith Expression and Funding Team (FEFT), a ministry within the Council for Faith and Action, is excited to announce that we have chosen a new name.

Effective December 1, our name will be Community Outreach Fund (Ministry).

We believe this new name offers a clearer understanding of the work we do. i.e., implementing the church's dedication to our wider communities with financial support, collaboration, connection, and engagement with organizations that share our Unitarian Universalist values, we strive to "create community" and "change the world."

Like to know more about our work? Contact faithfunding@uucwc.org or speak with a current ministry member: Rab Bell, Elizabeth Berkowitz, Holly Bussey, Bud Johnson, Jane Root, Jim Sanders, and Dan Tuft.



50% of Plate Donations Now Exceed \$10,000

By Holly Bussey

Every week, half of our weekly plate collection is given to organizations doing vital work in our wider community. Thanks to your generosity, the current giving period has been both abundant and impactful.

Since October 1st, we have contributed more than \$10,000 to the following groups:

- [Interfaith Food Alliance](#)
- [HomeFront](#) (Joys, Hopes & Dreams Program)
- [Bucks County Opportunity Council](#) – Food Support
- [TASK](#)
- [Trenton MicroLoan Collaborative](#)
- [UU Service Committee](#)
- [Chubby's Project](#)

If you'd like to learn more about the 50% Plate program or the organizations we work with, please contact the Faith in Action team at faithfunding@uucwc.org.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and commitment to living our values beyond our walls.



Food Ministry and Faith Expression and Funding Team Join Forces

By Holly Bussey

In November, two ministries within our Council for Faith in Action teamed up to address food insecurity in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Their coordinated effort focuses on two forms of support: collecting specific food items and providing financial assistance to local food banks.

Each week, the Food Ministry gathers, sorts, and delivers donations from the UUCWC community to partner organizations across both states. Monetary gifts, including 50% of Sunday plate offerings, are distributed through the Community Outreach Fund (formerly FEFT) to organizations meeting urgent community needs. Impact Through November 16

HomeFront

- 200 donated items valued at more than \$600
- \$1,000 UUCWC Funding Gift supporting the Joys, Hopes & Dreams Program

Interfaith Food Alliance

- 280+ items valued at more than \$715
- \$1,000 UUCWC Funding Gift

Chubby's Food Bank (November 16 recipient)

- 330 items valued at \$918.97
- \$1,000 UUCWC Funding Gift

Additional November Support from the Community Outreach Fund

- Trenton Microloan Collaborative: \$6,000
- Hopewell Food Bank: \$1,000
- Bucks County Opportunity Council (food support): \$1,000
- TASK: \$1,000

More groups will receive donations in the coming weeks.

For information about donating goods, contact foodministry@uucwc.org.

For monetary contributions beyond the plate offering, email faithfunding@uucwc.org



Giving Holiday Gift Cards? Do It Through UUCWC

By Steve Saddlemire, Holly Bussey, and Wendy Stasolla

Many of us enjoy giving holiday gift cards from our favorite restaurants and retailers. If you're planning to purchase gift cards this season, consider ordering them through UUCWC.

Through the Raise Right program, we offer more than 300 gift card brands. For every card you buy, UUCWC earns 4% or more in cash back, meaning your gift does double duty by supporting our beloved community.

To learn more, contact raiserright@uucwc.org or visit our table in the Crossings Room on Sundays, November 23 and 30. We'll be happy to answer questions, take orders, and notify you when your cards are ready. We can also arrange delivery on December 7.

Make your holiday shopping easier—and support UUCWC at the same time!

UUCWC Meet & Greet: David Schumann

By Scott Cullen, CrossCurrents Editor

If you've ever admired the stewardship materials or endowment brochures that make their way into your hands each year, or enjoyed one of UUCWC's lovingly prepared meals, you've likely seen David Schumann's creative touch at work. A member since



2016, David brings his artistry, humor, and generosity of spirit to everything he does, from chairing the Endowment Committee to helping in the kitchen.

David's story is one of faith rediscovered and community embraced. His journey from a Roman Catholic upbringing to Unitarian Universalism began during one of the most difficult times in his life, when compassion and acceptance at Arlington Street Church in Boston showed him what a truly welcoming faith could be. In this month's Meet & Greet, David shares how that experience continues to shape his commitment to UUCWC, what keeps him busy outside church, and why the simple act of being present remains his guiding philosophy.

How long have you been attending UUCWC?

David: My first time with UUCWC was Christmas Eve 2015. I believe my husband, Michael Agenbroad, and I joined the following spring.

What inspired you to visit for the first time?

David: It was our first Christmas in the area, and we decided rather than travel to family that we would stay close to home. We were members of Arlington Street Church in Boston for many years. It was interesting that our minister there was Kim, and we have Kim here, so we have old Kim and new Kim.

What religion were you brought up in?

David: I was raised Roman Catholic with First Communion, Confirmation, and even was an altar boy for a while.

How would you describe your faith journey?

David: I began attending services at Arlington Street Church in 1996 because my partner at the time had been diagnosed with AIDS and was severely ill, and I felt the need for spiritual support during that difficult time. I felt the Catholic Church would not accept my sexuality at all, and hadn't been back for many years. My partner attended with me, and he was blind by that point and was unable to move quickly. When Kim began her sermon, he leaned over to me and said he thought he was going to be sick. I got us up and tried to rush down the center aisle, hoping we could get outside before he got sick. As I reached the front doors, there stood his nurse, and she said, "I've got this. I will take care of him. Go ahead and sit back down."

I was so surprised to see her there. I sat back down and watched her take him toward the front, where there was a bathroom, then come out a few minutes later and sit with him to the side. She approached me and said she was going to have him sit with her so she could take care of him. I began to cry because I felt I was in a very safe place and didn't have to shoulder this burden alone. He passed away a few months later, and I became a member afterward.

What committees/ministries at UUCWC have you participated in during your time here?

David: I ordered some large roasting pans, and they turned out to be too big for my oven, so I brought them to the church, thinking they could use them. Mike (Muccioli) asked if I would like to join the Food Ministry, and I agreed to help cook and became part of it. Later, Kim asked me to join the Stewardship Committee, and I have been involved with that for many years, designing and printing the booklet and Christmas card.

Kim later asked if I could serve on the Endowment Committee. I met with them, and shortly after I joined the task force to redefine the Endowment's mission. I am now the Chair of the Endowment Committee. My current mission is to redesign the Endowment brochure and educate the congregation about how it works, how it is invested, and how they can contribute.

What's one thing about our church community that makes you feel at home?

David: The congregation is warm, welcoming, and caring. I know I am among people who are committed to the practice of UU and who help me become a better person.

What do you do for fun when you're not at UUCWC or attending an online service or UUCWC-related meeting?

David: I am pretty busy. I have a small one-chair salon in New Hope where my best friend and I do hair. I have been a hairdresser for over 47 years. I tie-dye in warmer weather and am part of the New Hope Arts and Crafts Festival, where I donate all proceeds from sales to animal rescue. I have been charged with organizing and the safekeeping of family memorabilia going back to the early 1800s, and have been writing photo genealogies. I am on the board of the Roberson Museum in Binghamton, New York. I teach art lessons at the museum. I am also on the board of the Robert Ford Schumann Foundation.

What's one piece of advice that has stuck with you throughout your life?

David: My biggest thing that I try to practice constantly is to be present.

What's your go-to comfort food?

David: French fries.

What's a tradition in your family that you cherish?

David: Dinners are always a big deal with our family. It is time to gather, share stories, and catch up.

What's the one saying or expression that drives you crazy every time you hear it?

David: Whatever!

What was your most memorable vacation destination?

David: We love to go every other year to an artist residency in Italy.

What was the last book you read that you enjoyed?

David: Barbara Streisand "My Name is Barbara."

What's the one movie you could watch again and again?

David: *Meet Me in St Louis.*

What's the last TV show you binged?

David: WE binge constantly. We love British murder mystery shows.

You're having a dinner party, what four people (celebrities, authors, historical figures—past or present) would be on your guest list?

David: Maybe not a “celebrity” but Reverend Kim Crawford Harvey, Barbara Streisand, Barack Obama, and Thomas Jefferson.

What's one thing you're grateful for this week?

David: I am currently out of town in Binghamton, my hometown, staying with the most generous friends. It is a wonderful week of connecting with old friends from my childhood.



Murray Grove Is Hiring: Join Us in Growing Our Mission

By Jessica Alaimo, Executive Director, Murray Grove

As the birthplace of Universalism in America, Murray Grove stands as a symbol of radical hospitality, inclusion, and courage in the pursuit of justice. As our programs, partnerships, and retreat bookings expand, so does our need for strong, reliable support behind the scenes. To maintain this momentum, we are hiring a Development Associate to work closely with our Executive Director and Development Committee.

This is a part-time position, 20 to 25 hours per week, with the potential to grow into full-time as funding increases. The role includes grant research and writing, donor database support, processing donations and thank-you letters, and helping coordinate fundraising campaigns, appeals, and special events. There is also general office support, since we are a very small, easygoing, and friendly staff that truly believes “teamwork makes the dream work.”

We are seeking someone who is organized, an effective communicator, and passionate about nonprofit work and UU values of inclusion and justice. Experience with donor databases is highly advantageous. This role offers a fantastic opportunity for someone seeking flexible scheduling, hybrid work options, and the chance to support a mission-driven organization that makes a difference.

If you or someone you know might be a good fit, we encourage you to apply or share this posting with your networks. The job listing can be found at: tinyurl.com/murraygrovejob.

To apply, send your resume and a brief cover letter to Jessica@murraygrove.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Thank you for helping us keep the spirit of Murray Grove alive for future generations.



Voices from UUCWC | Empowering Democracy: A Unitarian Universalist Call to Reconnect, Act, and Teach

By Mike Wilson

Across America, people are sensing something fragile slipping away—the everyday freedoms that speak to us as a democracy. The right to speak truth without fear, to be different, to vote with equality, to trust that government serves the people, all of these are under strain. But freedom disappears not only when it is taken; it vanishes when people stop believing in and defending it, when we stop understanding how and why to create a functional democracy.

Empowering the Use of Democracy Begins with Reconnection

Our first task must be to rebuild the strength of civic belonging. Freedom grows where people feel seen and heard. UU congregations can become centers of democratic renewal; spaces where diverse voices gather to speak freely, listen deeply, and rediscover common ground. We must find ways to host community stories, invite neighbors across political divides, and practice a “deep listening democracy.” This is how freedom is installed in hearts and minds—through relationship, not rhetoric.

Empower Democracy Through Local Action

The second task is to shift from discussion to coordinated effort. True democracy exists close to home—in school boards, zoning meetings, library policies, and county plans. UUs can map the power structures in their communities, identify where decisions are made, and show up collectively to make those decisions more transparent and inclusive. Freedom grows when ordinary people turn shared values into shared governance.

Empower Democracy by Linking Freedom to Equity

Freedom cannot thrive where inequality silences voices. UUs can strengthen democracy by working for economic fairness, racial equity, and social inclusion, ensuring that those most affected by decisions are present when those decisions are made. UUCWC can partner with local organizations advancing voting rights, housing justice, or fair wages. Each act of inclusion restores the power that autocracy steals.

Empower Democracy by Learning and Teaching

Civic education is itself a form of ministry. A congregation that teaches people how power works, how policies are written, how disinformation spreads, and how to hold officials accountable is actively building freedom. Offer democracy workshops, youth civic projects, and media literacy forums. When people understand the mechanisms of power, they gain the capacity to act.

Empower Democracy Through Collective Faith

Finally, Unitarian Universalists can embody the love that democracy needs most: moral courage combined with hopeful action. When we deliberate in community, model the democratic spirit, and demand involvement itself, we can extend these practices into neighborhoods, coalitions, and public life, transforming faith into civic energy.

Democracy will not save itself. It lives only through the people who use it. For UUs, to use democracy is to affirm our love of freedom, one action, one decision, one gathering at a time as we act together in love.



Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing | 268 Washington Crossing Pe Rd | Titusville, NJ 08560
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!