



## Pledge Drive 2024-2025 WRITING A NEW CHAPTER

### A message from Rev. Arlin Roy, Minister

Thank you for all you have done for me and for your, and my, precious community. This letter is about gratefully pledging money to FUSW. It is also about gratitude for all the gatherings that you have attended, the people you have met, befriended, and felt recognized by, all the services that you received and all the good that you have contributed to the world. It is about gratitude for what you learned and what you shared with your fellow congregants. It is about gratitude for the many hours members and friends have donated to securing a place where we can have a home that is ours, year-round, day and night. Please join me in raising your pledge to account for inflation and new opportunities to gather together. Your love makes all of this worthwhile.

### A message from Denise Woodin, President

Last year, the writer Brad Stulberg wrote in *The New York Times* “We are stronger and more robust when enmeshed with others in community.” He noted that if we really want to know others and be known by them, we need to show up. But he didn’t mean just making an appearance. To build connections with others, we need to be fully present, fully committed, and open to all kinds of possibilities.

What does this mean for our beloved FUSW community as we forge a new path for our congregation? Fundraisers refer to giving of one’s “time, talent and treasure.” As we open a new chapter in our long history, I urge you to think about how you show up and what you can give. Now more than ever, we need your time, talent, and treasure (and yes that means your pledge). Think about what FUSW means to you. Think about the connections you have made and continue to make during this exciting time. And think about how much stronger we will become when we show up for each other.

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### 2024-25 Pledge Response

I/we pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the FUSW operating budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).

Payments will be made \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ Annually

This pledge will renew every year until I advise otherwise.

I am unable to make a financial commitment at this time.

Print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your completed form by May 5 to: Treasurer, First Unitarian Society, PO Box 26, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706, or email to FUSWtreasurer@gmail.com.

If your financial situation changes and you need to revise your financial commitment, please notify the Treasurer.

## **FUSW and YOU**

We are a small, but vibrant congregation, offering a range of uplifting activities to members, friends, and the community at large. When you pledge to FUSW, you are supporting:

### **Sunday Services**

What would Sundays be without thought-provoking sermons, inspiring music, time to share, and of course, coffee hour with friends.

### **Program Groups**

A tradition unique to FUSW, our program groups build community by engaging members and regular guests in organizing services. The planning meetings, which are often held over meals, are as lively and interesting as the resulting services.

### **Social Action**

From Black Lives Matter to Midnight Run and more, our members are engaged together and individually in some of the most important social justice issues of our time. How would you like to get involved during this critical election year?

### **Women's Groups**

FUSW has two women's groups: one that meets monthly for lunch and one that meets every other Friday evening on Zoom. Both allow the women of our congregation to discuss everything from the state of the world to the state of their lives, all with humor, warmth, and care for each other.

### **Men's Group**

The Men's Group meets every other Friday evening, in person and on Zoom. Meetings begin with a personal check-in, followed by a discussion on topics of interest to the group.

### **Reading Black Lives Book Group**

Founded in 2020, our informal book group has been reading and discussing the works of Black writers. All are welcome!

### **Writing Group**

The FUSW Writing Group, "Writing Our Stories," offers a safe and supportive space for members to come together twice a month, September through May, writing on any subject they choose, in any genre, in order to nourish their inner selves, spiritually, creatively, or in any other way. We write, read aloud, listen, and share, in complete confidentiality.

### **Choir**

Led by a professional voice teacher and vocalist, the choir is open to anyone who loves to sing. The choir performs several times a year during Sunday services.





FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY of WESTCHESTER

A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

P.O. Box 26

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706-3227

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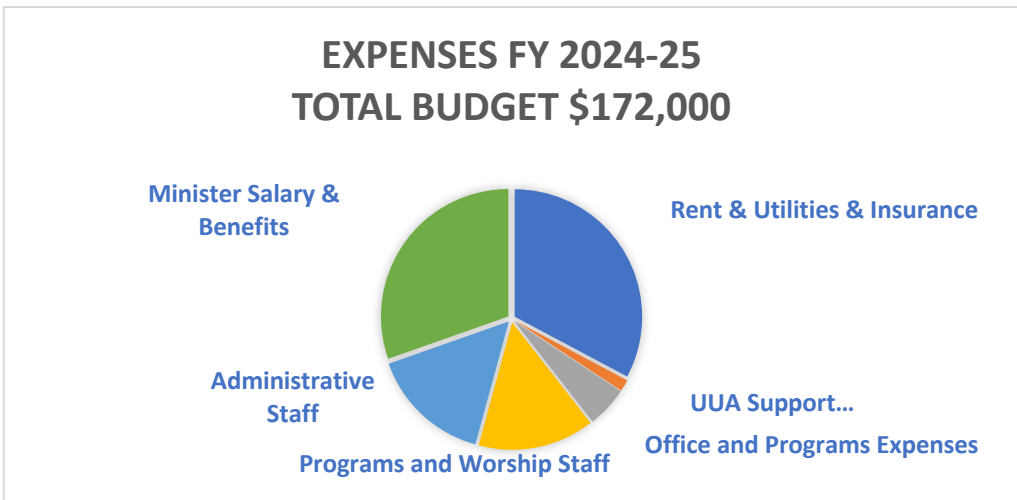
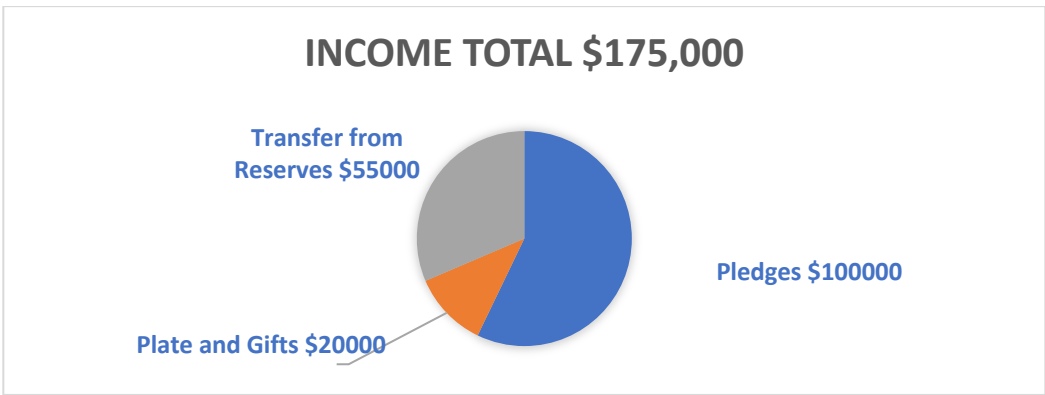
**Greetings from your FUSW Finance Team!**

It's that time again – when we plan for the coming year. The operating budget is approved at the Annual Corporate Congregational Meeting in June. Individual pledges from our 58 members and friends (42 households) are the most significant source of our operating income.

You may email questions to Susan Greenberg at [fuswtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fuswtreasurer@gmail.com).

In community,  
The Finance Committee

Larry Greenberg, Sara Kelsey, Eric Kemperman, Bill Reynolds, Kevin Weber



**First Unitarian Society of Westchester**  
**Proposed Operating Budget 2024-25**

***Income***

Contributions to Operating Budget	\$ 120,000	Pledges, Gifts, Plate, Fundraising
Transfer from Reserves	\$ 55,000	From Proceeds of Sale of 25 OJA Property
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	

***Expenses***

Rent 210 North Central Ave	\$ 46,375	
Utilities - Heat and Light	\$ 5,565	
UUA Support	\$ 2,500	
Insurance	\$ 3,500	
Office Expenses	\$ 4,650	Software, Subscriptions, Phone, Internet, Supplies
Programs and Worship	\$ 4,150	
Non-Employee Staff, Pulpit Guests	\$ 25,000	Musicians, Tech Support, Media Support, Pulpit Guests
Administrative Staff	\$ 26,000	Salary and Benefits Administrator and Bookkeeper
Minister	\$ 51,400	Salary, Benefits, Professional Expenses
Payroll Expenses	\$ 2,535	FICA, Workers Comp, Unemployment
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 171,675</b>	

***Capital Budget***

Income from Investments	\$ 25,000	
Funds for the Future	TBD	Transfer as Needed and Approved