

Birmingham Unitarian Church

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Dear BUC Congregant,

There is optimism in the air at BUC. We are building community among new and long-time members and visitors, developing a strategic plan, and preparing to welcome a new minister in August. For the 2025-2026 church year, we achieved a balanced budget after making hard decisions on staffing and other spending. In addition, we made a big request of the congregation in the form of pledge increases to meet the budget goal, and many households responded in kind. Thank you! We know it was a stretch for some. We acknowledge and appreciate all financial support, large or small, that enables us to fund our church. Having a stable budget positions us to continue offering a competitive compensation package as we search for our next minister.

Our pledge goal for 2026-2027 is \$540,000. This will require an overall seven percent increase in pledges over the current year due to several factors:

- Increased administrative support, including transition from volunteer to paid bookkeeping
- Increase in employer portion of staff health insurance
- Cost of living increase for staff
- Cost increases for cleaning, Internet Service Provider, and external tech support
- Birmingham Bloomfield Montessori Pre-School lease revenue is being used to address the backlog of building maintenance projects. This revenue will not be available for the operational budget until the maintenance is caught up.

We are not taking lightly our request for pledge increases, as we are keenly aware that household budgets are experiencing cost increases in multiple areas. We are carefully monitoring and managing spending to stay on budget for this year and commit to continued vigilance during the next year. To learn more about the proposed budget, please attend the treasurer's presentation after the service on February 15. A recording will also be available to view on BUC's website.

We hope you will carefully consider both the value of our BUC community as your spiritual home and your financial means. We need to receive your pledge commitment by March 16, after which we will determine whether further action is needed to balance the budget. Together, we can ensure that our free and welcoming religious community continues to thrive and be a beacon for others in this unsteady world.

In community,

Mary Jo Ebert

President, BUC Board of Trustees

38651 Woodward Ave. | Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248.647.2380 | www.bucmi.org