

**Keep  
Our  
Light  
Bright**



**ANNUAL GIVING GUIDE**

Central Unitarian Church  
Paramus, New Jersey

# Our vision: a more giving world

The members of Central Unitarian together have created our vision of a religious home that makes a difference in our own lives and in our greater community.

That vision reflects our belief in the power of giving. When we give freely of our time, talent, and treasure, we unleash power we didn't realize we had: the power to reach out to others and make a real difference in their lives, to learn new ways of being, to lead richer, more satisfying, and more connected lives.

Together, we share a vision of a better world, a world in which justice, equity, and compassion in human relations can become a reality. Through our combined acts of giving, we keep the bonds of trust, faith, and action strong here at Central Unitarian.

Please consider the information in this Giving Guide and make a generous pledge.

Blessed be,  
The Lay Leadership of CUC

# Our goal

## Living our faith

CUC is a life-changing religious home. One that offers multiple pathways to generous service. One that celebrates the whole human experience through diverse programming and passionate action for justice.

Through generous giving and collective action, we all live our faith. Each year we ask each other to pledge our financial support. Over time, our pledges have looked like this:

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An **average pledge** of \$1,800.

**Half of givers pledge** \$1,500 or more.

**Top givers** pledge \$3,000 to \$12,000.

**Most common** pledges are \$600 and \$1,000.

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# Why give?

## Our community thrives on our commitments

Through the financial commitment each of us makes, we give CUC the resources to be a liberal religious home that beckons all to find nourishment of the heart, mind, and spirit within its walls.

The size of your gift is yours to decide, based on your annual income. Please consult this guide to arrive at a level that feels right for you.

# When to Give – and How

## **Anyone can pledge at any time**

Both members and friends make financial commitments to CUC. First-time pledges can be made at any time you feel ready to support the ministries of this congregation. Most members renew their pledges to coincide with the fiscal year (July through June), and we traditionally hold a Generosity Sunday service around the beginning of March to “kick off” the next year’s pledging process.

## **The pledge process**

Let the office, the Stewardship Team, or the minister know that you would like to make a pledge. We will see that you receive a pledge form, and we’ll answer any questions you might have. (Forms are also available at the Welcome Center and church office).

The form will ask for your contact information, the annual amount you would like to contribute to the church, and details about how often and in what form you wish to pay.

You can mail the form to the office or hand it to a Stewardship Team member. Starting on Generosity Sunday, there will also be a stewardship box in the Sanctuary where you can place the completed form.

# Our Vision

## **We dream of a future in which...**

- CUC's commitment to Unitarian Universalism as a union of reason and faith is a beacon to all who seek nourishment of the heart, mind and spirit in a life-changing religious home.
- CUC is a loving community, built on bonds of trust that offers powerful, tangible ways for every person who walks through our doors to work for a better world.
- CUC offers multiple pathways to generous service in which all members and friends find personal meaning and share their abundant talents and ideas.
- CUC celebrates the whole human experience, gathering many cultures and voices through our richly diverse programming.
- CUC works passionately for justice and empowers each person to change lives within and beyond our walls every day.
- Our past is honored and our resources enable this vision to flourish.

## **Your financial commitment supports...**

- Sunday morning worship services with their mix of inspiring words, thought-provoking ideas, music, and fellowship
- Our Religious Education programs
- The professional staff that manages our programs and serves our needs
- The facilities where we host events such as Outreach Auction and Spring Fling

# Where it goes

**Most of our dollars are spent on these core ministries:**

## **Our Educational Ministry:**

If you have children in the Religious Education (RE) program at CUC, you should know:

- Sunday school costs about \$1,400 per child
- Youth group costs about \$900 per youth

## **Our Spiritual Ministry:**

We come together on Sundays to challenge one another to become better people. As you think about what our worship services mean to you, you should know:

- Sunday services cost \$1,300 per person.
- Our music program adds another \$400 per person.

## **Our Community Ministry:**

Our mission calls us to serve the greater community, through our generosity and volunteer efforts. As you seek to make a difference, you should know:

- Our support of the UU movement costs \$120 per member.
- We spend about \$6,000 a year on the Outreach Auction, Spring Fling, and other community events, including the costs of our facility.

The charts on the back cover give you a quick look at CUC's income sources and spending. Also, on the next page, you'll see a guide that is based on different levels of "adjusted gross income" (as reported on your Federal tax return).

# Fair Share Giving Guide

## Generosity comes in all sizes

Use the table below as a guide to help you find the level of giving that is right for you.

### 1% of adjusted annual income

Your annual Income:	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
Annual Pledge (1%)	\$250	\$500	\$750
Monthly Pledge	\$20.80	\$41.70	\$62.50
Weekly Pledge	\$4.80	\$9.60	\$14.40

Your annual Income:	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Annual Pledge (1%)	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
Monthly Pledge	\$83.30	\$166.70	\$250
Weekly Pledge	\$19.20	\$38.50	\$57.50

### 3% of adjusted annual income

Your annual Income:	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
Annual Pledge(3%)	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,250
Monthly Pledge	\$62.50	\$125	\$187.50
Weekly Pledge	\$14.40	\$28.85	\$43.30

Your annual Income:	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Annual Pledge (3%)	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$9,000
Monthly Pledge	\$250	\$500	\$750
Weekly Pledge	\$57.70	\$115.40	\$173.10

### 5% of adjusted annual income

Your annual Income:	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
Annual Pledge (5%)	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
Monthly Pledge	\$208	\$417	\$833
Weekly Pledge	\$48	\$96	\$192

Your annual Income:	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Annual Pledge (5%)	\$5000	\$10,000	\$15,000
Monthly Pledge	\$416.70	\$833.35	\$1,250
Weekly Pledge	\$96.15	\$192.30	\$288.50

