



TUUC

1710 Dulaney Valley Rd.
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towsonuuc.org.

Dear Members & Friends:

In the heartbeat of our community, amidst the shared laughter, thoughtful discussions, and moments of profound connection, lies a collective voice, a chorus of aspirations, hopes, and dreams for our beloved church.

As we honor the privilege of tapping into this collective voice and embracing its aspirations, **we are excited to invite everyone to make their annual pledge—an expression of our shared commitment that ensures the very existence of our beloved community.**

In the past six months, we've engaged in numerous conversations across various settings, listening attentively to your voices as you've shared your hopes and dreams for our beloved church. Your insights have shaped our collective vision, guiding us towards a future anchored in our values yet stretching towards new possibilities.

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." These words, spoken by Margaret Wheatley, resonate deeply as we reflect on all the aspirations shared.

As we look ahead to our fiscal investment priorities, we ask: **How can we cultivate a church deeply rooted in our values while expanding our impact?**

Through our conversations and reflections, a clear picture of our collective vision has emerged. We've heard your voices loud and clear. You've spoken, and we've listened. What's become abundantly clear is that we are a congregation both rooted and reaching.

What does it mean to be rooted yet reaching?

What's abundantly clear is this dichotomy that has emerged is: we're all about fostering connection, growth, and learning. From cozy family-friendly gatherings to thought-provoking speaker series and initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, our community is buzzing with energy and purpose. We're also deeply committed to outreach and growth, welcoming new members and engaging with broader social issues. And let's not forget about our sacred spaces – we're dedicated to making them welcoming and accessible to all. This isn't just about maintaining what we have; it's about building on it, making our community stronger, wiser, and more connected.

What if I told you that your pledge holds the power to shape the very future you have all envisioned of our beloved church?

We recognize that each and every one of us cares deeply about the wellbeing and vitality of our community. After all, we are all stakeholders in the shared ownership of our church. Without our collective financial investment and commitment, none of the incredible programs, services, and support we provide would be possible.

That's why we're creating a "no nudge necessary" attitude as we kick off our pledging season. We trust in your dedication to our community and know you understand and appreciate the value of time and resources. By making your pledge right now, today, in this moment, you're not just supporting our church – you're freeing up valuable staff and volunteer resources to be used in even more impactful ways. Let's come together in this moment of connection and support by making our pledges without delay.

What should we keep in mind?

As we consider our pledges for the next fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2024, it's essential to recognize that the expenses of our church are steadily increasing. Yet, how often do we pause to consider whether our pledges are keeping pace with these rising costs? One member recently shared, *"I hadn't realized that as the church's expenses increase, so too should our pledges. It's a simple concept, but one that hadn't fully crossed my mind until now."* This anecdote serves as a reminder that our financial commitments to the church should evolve in tandem with its growing needs.

Our church exists because each of us contributes, making pledges that sustain and enrich our shared community. Consider the profound value our services offer, fostering connections and providing enriching opportunities for all ages. Reflect on the impact of programs like our thriving Youth Religious Education, where children flourish and families find support. Are you actively engaged in special programs that enhance our community's vibrancy? As we gather the wisdom of our community and reflect on our fiscal investment priorities, we should all deeply consider: how does my financial commitment serve as an expression of my values and all I receive from TUUC?

Over the past several months, we've heard beautiful aspirations from every corner of our congregation. From desiring more opportunities for connection through enriching speaker series, concerts, and activities, to a collective vision of learning together and welcoming the community with open arms. Additionally, there's a shared desire to make a far greater impact by extending our justice work far and wide. With these aspirations in mind, let our pledges reflect the collective dreams and hopes that we have all shared.

Don't forget - we're asking everyone to adopt a 'no nudge needed' attitude. **This means making your pledge right in this moment.** By taking this action swiftly, you're preserving valuable resources for other important endeavors within our church community. Let's honor this commitment to immediate action and busy ourselves with worthy endeavors we hold deeply. Together, as a community rooted in our values and reaching towards new horizons, let us create the future we aspire to, filled with promise and possibility.

United in spirit and commitment,

Tracey Myers - Preston

Stewardship Chair

Andrew Hager

President

To explore the investment priorities and make your pledge, please visit our Rooted and Reaching website page at www.towsonuuc.org/pledging-2024.

PLEASE NOTE: We are asking everyone to complete a new form.

If you would prefer to use the attached pledge form, please do so and return as outlined.