A Message from Your Board President, Laurel Bollinger



We live in challenging times, no question—times that feel heavy on our hearts and heavy on our time and (frankly) heavy on our wallets. Prices just keep going up. So many essential groups desperately need our time and money as we try to stem the rising tide of fascism *and* address other needs long evident in our nation and world. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by such never-ending demands.

But right now, through our annual budget drive, we have the opportunity to build hope together by renewing our faith in and commitment to this community, to UUCH as a bulwark against a nation in crisis. We are exactly what they don't want us to be: a chosen community that celebrates our diversity, commits to democratic governance, and supports one another as we struggle to make sense of the moment we find ourselves in. *We can and must stand together to build and renew our beloved faith community.* Small intentional communities like ours are in and of themselves an act of resistance as well as potential sites of resistance. At our initial meeting of the church year, your elected leaders discussed our hopes for the year. The Board's first, most important goal? "Be a REFUGE during these challenging times, creating a strong institution to resist social, economic, and political oppression, and take action to maximize our resistance efforts." We have tried to live up to that obligation, but we now turn to you to help us sustain and strengthen that institution.



This community offers a force multiplier for resistance, but only to the extent it remains healthy and financially sound. As you renew (or make your first) pledges for the upcoming year, please consider how much you can support us in building the hope and renewing the faith we so desperately need to meet this particular moment.