North Chapel

North Universalist Chapel Society
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Dear Members and Friends of the North Universalist Chapel Society,

Eight years ago, I walked through the doors of this congregation at a time when my life was changing in ways I never expected. I was looking for connection, for some sense of safety, and perhaps simply for somewhere I could catch my breath.

I found a community.

At first, Sunday mornings gave me something I desperately needed: a place where my daughter could be safe and welcomed while I had a little time to breathe, listen, sing, and process. When I needed practical help, people here showed up for me. I experienced kindness and generosity that I will never forget.
But somewhere along the way, this stopped being simply the place I came because I needed support.

It became home.

Over these eight years, I have grown so much. I have found safety and connection. I have built confidence and self-worth. I have learned that I can fall apart here without being judged -and that I can be supported while finding my own way forward.

But I don't come here only to fall apart. I come here to be nurtured. I come to sing and laugh and celebrate, to learn and question, to be challenged and inspired. I come so that my daughter can grow up surrounded by people who care about her and give her room to become herself. And sometimes, I come simply to warm myself.

I've also come to appreciate how much bigger this congregation is than what happens on Sunday morning.

Walk through the building during the week and it is alive with community: music lessons, programs for young children after school, meetings for organizations such as The Hub and Sustainable Woodstock, men's and women's groups, book clubs, meditation groups, and so much more. People gather here to learn, support one another, make music, share ideas, build friendships, and strengthen the wider community.

To me, this is what a congregation can be at its best - not simply a place we go, but a place that makes community possible.

That is what I am pledging to sustain.

My pledge is more than a contribution toward keeping the lights on. It is my way of helping sustain the community that has sustained me, and a space that serves so many people in so many different ways.

Eight years ago, I came here because I needed something.

Today, I give because I have found something worth sustaining.

I hope you will think about what this congregation has given you—not only in the difficult moments, but in the ordinary ones, the joyful ones, and the moments when you have discovered a little more of who you are.

And I hope you'll join me in giving what you can to help ensure that this remains a place where we can gather, grow, celebrate, support one another, and make community together.

Thank you,
Jayne Hufferdine