



Message from the Minister

The Spiritual Practice of Turning in Your Pledge

Card - Friends, it's that time of year again—stewardship season! The season when we are invited to reflect on what this congregation means to us, to our families, and to the wider world. And yes, it's the season when we ask you—kindly, lovingly, persistently—to turn in your pledge card. At the time of this writing, a dismal 12 pledge units have been received. We had hoped to have all of them in by the end of March. So, here is your nudge!

Now, I know what you might be thinking: "Oh, I'll get around to it," or "They know I'll give, so does it really matter when I turn it in?" And the answer, my friends, is a resounding YES! It does matter when you turn your pledge card in! Did you know that the Board will have only about six weeks to come up with a balanced budget before it is voted on at the annual meeting? Did you know that unless the Board sees the money in the pledge cards received, they can't fund much of anything? It is only by your pledge cards that they are able to know how much money they will have to put toward the final budget. The sooner you get your pledge cards in, the easier it will be for the Board to plan for next year and ensure that our doors will remain open.

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Sunday Services

Apr 6 - "Amidst all this Chaos, Anger and Oppression – Why Talk about Joy?"

- Led by: **Guest Minister, Rev. Alice Diebel**
 Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Apr 13 - "What is Joy and Where can I get Some?" - Led by: **Rev. Dan Miyake**

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

True joy can be elusive, especially in challenging times such as these. Is joy even possible still? Let's explore together what joy is and isn't, and let's see if we can find some!

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Calendar

- 3 Thurs Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 6 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Alice Diebel ~ 11:00 am
- 6 Sunday YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
- 7 Mon Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 10 Thurs Ladies Lunch @ Soar Café & Form ~ 11:30 am
- 13 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev Dan ~ 11:00 am
- 13 Sunday Conversation & Meditation ~ Schoolhouse ~ 12:30 - 2:15 pm
- 13 Sunday Soul Matters Group ~ Meet in Social Hall after Social Hour
- 14 Mon Board Meeting ~ 9:00 am
- 14 Mon New UU Class ~ 7:00 pm via Zoom ~ Anyone who is Considering Membership
- 20 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake ~ **10:30 am**
- 21 Mon Church & Schoolhouse Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
- 21 Mon The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
- 27 Sunday ~~ Service ~ Led by: TBA ~ 11:00 am
- 27 Sunday CUUPs Pagan Group meets ~ After Social Hour
- 27 Sunday Conversation & Meditation ~ Schoolhouse ~ 12:30 - 2:15 pm

Friday, May 2 Annual Auction live at church beginning at 6:00 pm

Rev. Dan's Column Continued.....

Turning in your pledge card isn't just about money. It's a spiritual practice. It's a commitment to something greater than yourself. It's a tangible act of faith, an expression of gratitude, and a promise to sustain the community that sustains you.

This congregation doesn't just happen. The warmth of Sunday morning fellowship, the inspiring music, the religious education for our children, the pastoral care, —all of it happens because people like you believe in it enough to support it. And while spontaneous generosity is always welcome, a solid financial foundation requires planning. When you turn in your pledge card, you help our leaders plan responsibly for the coming year, ensuring that our congregation can thrive rather than merely survive.

And let's be honest—life gets busy. We fully intend to do things, but sometimes our best intentions get buried under the to-do lists of daily life. So consider this your gentle nudge, your sacred reminder, your holy post-it note: If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, now is the time.

Because what we build together is sacred. What we nurture here in this beloved community is rare. And what we sustain with our pledges is nothing short of love made visible.

So, fill out your pledge card. Turn it in. Do it as an act of love, an act of faith, and an act of commitment to this community we cherish. And know that, no matter the amount, your participation makes all the difference.

With abundant love,

REV. DAN MIYAKE

Sunday Services Continued...

Apr 20 - "Easter Service" ~ 10:30 am

- Led by: Rev. Dan Miyake

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

With Dan preaching from Elkhart, IN. Note: Service will begin at 10:30 rather than 11:00!

Join us for a joint intergenerational Easter zoom service with the good folks of Elkhart UU Fellowship as we continue to reflect on how to incorporate the traditional Easter story into our lives today. The Zoom Link will be sent out to all before the 20th.

Apr 27 - "Avian Experience/We Celebrate Earth Day"

- Led by: TBA

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

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