

Purpose Compassion
Energy Love Sing
Spiritual Forgive
Nurture Healing
Holistic Wisdom
Social Strengthening
Kindness **SACRED**
Family **CONNECTIONS**
Soul Give Service
Heart Action
Trust Empower

In Our Interconnected World

*“All life on earth is inextricably bound together
in a web of mutual interdependence.”*

Marjorie Spiegel

With Love from Reverend Rebecca

“
When I think of our church, I think of sacred connections.
”



At the FRSUU people of all ages come together to pursue shared values and form intergenerational bonds and memories.

Children are encouraged to be their authentic selves and develop their passions. They carry Unitarian Universalist values with them as they grow, and we rejoice when they return as adults for Candlelight or the Christmas Eve service.

We value our elders and support them as they reflect on lives filled with wisdom that they share with us.

We continue the tradition of Sunday worship by strengthening our commitment to liberal religion. We believe that religion is not dying but changing. We understand the importance of a beautiful and historic sanctuary: a place to gather with others in search of peace, truth, and beauty.

Learning takes many forms. We laugh together as we socialize; we smile as we imagine what is to come. We respect the many and varied gifts of our members and friends and appreciate what has each has to offer.

We are seekers and lifelong learners who value community. Our Unitarian Universalist values challenge us both to be the best people we can be and to respond to the challenges of daily life with strength, integrity, and grace. We work for justice, stand up for our beliefs, and show up for rallies and vigils.

We honor the interconnected web of existence and our indigenous elders. We know that we are part of life and seek to enrich rather than dominate the interdependent circle. We support the Earth and all creation and seek to make our buildings and actions as sustainable as possible.

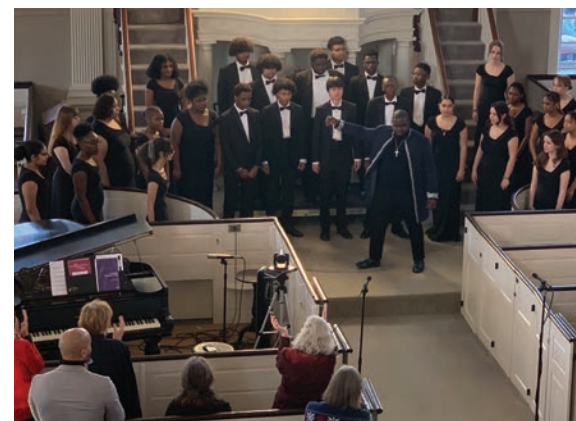
Throughout our lives, these sacred connections ebb and flow and still the bonds hold fast. We show up to share a meal, attend a memorial service, and celebrate each other's joy. Given these connections, our lives are all the more beautiful.

Your gift will fund the first half of our 300th anniversary year. Please be as generous as possible in supporting the annual campaign. We need everyone's participation and gifts of all sizes, none too small and none too large.

Yours in faith and promise,

Reverend Rebecca

Heading into the fourth century of the First Religious Society, Unitarian Universalist, we celebrate the sacred connections among individuals and groups within our church and in the greater community. “Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part” is the Seventh UU Principle. This principle binds us to all of humanity. Our annual campaign challenges our capability to create a future that fully supports the staff and facilities.



The FRSUU values connection to the greater community as a main part of our mission. The FRSUU impacts the wider community in many ways, including anti-gun violence work, and refugee resettlement through our ongoing relationship and support of the Mirzayee family. The Sunday Shared Collection supports the work of twelve community organizations that address issues such as domestic violence, housing, animal welfare, food security, and LGBTQ+ justice.

Our own teams tackle issues as wide-ranging as anti-racism, banned books, climate change, and environmental sustainability. Participants connect with other like-minded members and representatives outside the church who are actively engaged in these issues.

Community Church



The FRSUU is committed to creating a beloved community rich in interests, life experiences, and diverse theologies.

We have been a welcoming space for people of Newburyport and beyond for nearly 300 years and offer annual traditions like the Candlelight Service, the Christmas Eve Service, and the Gong Service.

This year, we bid farewell to two beloved members of our community: Director of Church Music Justin Murphy-Mancini and Director of Faith Formation Julie Parker Amery. We know our connection to them will never truly be broken as they have shaped and strengthened us all. We know, too, that new connections will be built, and our community will grow in new ways as we hire new leaders for our church.



The meeting house, from the first building built in 1725 to our current home built in 1801, has served as the physical sanctuary for our congregation. When asked why our building is called a “meeting house,” we give a simple answer. The meeting house is the place where people come together to form a church, bringing ideas and energy to deepen sacred connections.

As we move into our fourth century, the meeting house hosts the small-group gatherings that pool the insights from which we will develop our plans for our future and strengthen these connections.



-  Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (Mother's Day Walk)
-  Newburyport Pride Parade & Transgender Day of Remembrance
-  Jeanne Geiger Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence
-  Advocating & Awareness-Building Around Banned Books
-  Service of Peace With Community Leaders (responding to Gaza)
-  Boston Arts Academy "The Spirituals" Concert
-  Historic Church Tours
-  Church Picnic: Opening Sunday
-  Mirzayee Family (move to new home)
-  Crossing Paths (YC program about world religions)
-  Launch 300th Anniversary Planning/Congregational Insight
-  Candlelight and Christmas Eve Service
-  Fall Auction/Holiday Cookie Walk
-  Green Team Potluck on Native Gardening
-  Wilson Music Series
-  Monday Night Meditation
- Tuesday Morning Spiritual Practice



"I love Young Church because everyone there is so nice and welcoming. I love the books that Mara reads and the stories that the special guests bring and the crafts are fun. When I am there I get a feeling that grows until it is a ball of love for the people who go to the church and are always around me."

Charlotte Ghozati, age 8

The FRSUU brings us together in ways too numerous to count. We accomplish more when these connections are strong and supported. This effort requires each of us to care for the community and to do our part to ensure that we continue to dig into our mission.

Your commitment of a pledge to the FRSUU is vital as we plan to do this work in the year ahead.

For the first four Sundays in March, we will hear church members share how they each have experienced a sacred connection here at our church. Come connect and hear for yourself how your contributions make a difference in people's lives.

We know that every pledge is personal. As you make your decision, please keep in mind four key facts:

1. Pledge commitments represent the most important fundraising we do, comprising approximately 70% of FRSUU's annual income.
2. The average pledge for the past church year was just over \$2,100.
3. Pledges range from \$25 to more than \$25,000. All pledges are important, and all are deeply appreciated.
4. Our goal for this year is to raise \$575,000 in pledges and to reach 300 total pledges as we celebrate our 300th Anniversary.

We grow stronger and deepen our connections when we come together to support our church. Please join us in this effort.

Please join us in this effort.

Thank You



2024–2025 Annual Giving Campaign

*“...Ray and I are honored to have been asked to co-chair this year’s annual giving campaign. We, like all of you, hold sacred the connections we have made here. It is the staff, programming, and facilities at FRS that make sacred connections possible. Please continue to support them.
–With appreciation and love,”*

Sue Creed & Ray Wilson



We Need Everyone’s Participation

How to Make Your Pledge



Online at www.frsuu.org/pledge



Email your pledge to Diane Carroll at diane.carroll@frsuu.org



Mail your completed pledge form to FRSUU
at 26 Pleasant Street in Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950



Call Diane Carroll at **978.465.0602 x401**