

I GIVE BECAUSE. . .

Responses to "I Give Because. . ." in Pledge Drive closing worship service of February 2012.

I LOVE THE COMMUNITY

- I am in LOVE with this church. I am endlessly grateful for, inspired and invigorated by the full, living spirit of this precious community.
- It supports bringing together a community of prisoners of hope.
- I can help to sustain a community that inspires goodness in people and doing good in the wider world.
- It feels good! I love this community that has given so much to me, and I want to give back and share what gifts I have.
- I value the community of First Universalist. We can do more together than alone.
- This church community opens my heart.
- This place is a sanctuary for me. Helps to prioritize, realize what truly matters, and try to carry that throughout my life outside these walls.
- You are my beloved community. I give because I belong.
- This church and its members are my spiritual home and family. I feel nurtured and challenged and share my time, talents and resources to move me, us forward.
- I want to create spaces where love, learning, and change can develop and grow.
- This church makes me and the world a better place.
- Through this church because when we join our candle flames together the one united flame is much, much brighter.
- I need a place to restore my hopefulness
- This is my spiritual home and one of my few communities, and I flare up much more effectively in community.
- Much has been given to me. This community gives me hope in an often sad world.
- I want to celebrate the beauty of our faith community in action.
- I want to be connected to others who care.
- This community gives me hope and it is a place where I can share the hope and let it grow.
- I love the community of this church-the whole and the parts-

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all the people who make up this community and I want it to be there for me, and others, for a long time.

- **I want to express my love for this church and my appreciation for how it changes me. And because I need it.**
- **This community-First UU Church is my spiritual home. A home must be maintained and tended with care. My hands and dollars are small, part of that loving tending work.**
- **First Universalist is leading me to a spiritually rich life. It takes community.**
- **Being a part of a real community compels giving of myself. Giving flows both ways.**
- **I believe in this spiritual community and it's helping me to believe in myself.**
- **I want to support the spirit of love and hope I feel in this space**

I CAN:

- **I can. Because I have been blessed with abundance.**
- **I have been given a life beyond anything I would have been able to build alone. I give to share this I have been given with others.**

- **I have more than enough and want to live from a place/sense of abundance.**
- **It's fair. I have food, shelter, health and friends. I see the world as a family and want to help my siblings!**
- **I had giving parents and it feels as natural as breathing.**
- **Because I can and because it makes me part of something bigger than myself and stronger than one I give and then I'm not alone.**
- **I have been blessed and I need to share that blessing**
- **I have been given so many blessings by life.**
- **I have been blessed with much strength and much to give, and because I know that there is so much we can improve the world if we do.**
- **I have been blessed with an abundance of love and kindness that I can now share with others.**
- **I have to remember how much I have and how much I have to give.**
- **I am blessed and fortunate and healthy. Everyone should have that opportunity. It is healing for me.**

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I BELIEVE IN THE MISSION

- I believe in the mission of this church.
- I want to support the mission of this faith and to provide me a place to live my faith and sustain myself.
- Sharing success requires sharing the responsibility.
- I believe that a higher power of love, accountability and social justice will provide my children, my community and myself with a brighter future.
- We are an interconnected world. What happens to another affects us all.
- As one person I can only do so much; when I combine my energy, time, money, talents, with those around me, I become we, and we can do anything.
- I believe to truly learn to be in community with others is how we will change and heal the world.
- Together we can make ever a greater difference in the world.
- It extends my ability to put my resources to work in the community in ways consistent with my values.
- I want to be the change I wish to see in the world.
- There are things we can only do by giving together. I am able and I want to be part of giving to that.
- I want this community healthy and strong to transform lives as it has transformed mine.
- I believe in the Universalist message of love, hope and inclusiveness. It completes me.
- This church provides a centering force in my life and does good in the community.
- I believe in our church and what it does and want to be a part of it and making it happen.
- It is a way to carry out my values and because I value this community, its history and its future.
- This religion has shaped and enriched my life and I want it to be here for others.
- I want to share some of what I have, and support the work of the church.
- I believe in what we do.
- This church helps me grow. I want to help us do together what we cannot do alone.
- I believe in posterity.
- First Universalist gives me a base to make the world a better place.

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THERE IS GREAT NEED

- I love...I know deep lonely, breath-shattering pain, and I want not to leave others alone in pain.
- I am able. People are in need. Allows me to expand into the spirit of life. It opens my heart and pleases my soul.
- The need is great and I can share what I have.
- I have more than I need...and others do not have enough to make one world a better place for all.
- I've been blessed. It's an expression of my values and beliefs. To spread justice, love.
- There are others who are less fortunate than I have been.
- I want to and am able to help make the world a better place and to support this community.
- I see a need that I can help with.
- There is a need larger than my own wants and desires.
- I give because I can and want to support the work of this church and what it does in the broader community.
- There is such need! And it is my responsibility as one who has so much privilege in comparison!

I WANT TO LIVE GENEROUSLY

- This church community helps me aspire to my higher self and I want to live the spirit of generosity.
- I want to become a more generous person. I can. I believe the larger community needs our message.
- I want to practice opening my heart. I want to choose love! I have lots to share. It feels good.
- It allows me to move outside of myself and help others.
- It makes my support of this community and its work an integral part of my life. It reminds me what I have and it changes me when I share what I can.
- Giving is the opposite of indifference. I do not choose to be indifferent, so I give.
- I know I am not giving everything I can and need to be reminded of the world around me that needs me to notice it and respond not just in thought but also in action.
- It helps me keep a pathway into my heart center free and open.
- I give to be part of the solution.

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I RECEIVE AND AM GRATEFUL

- Gratitude is a powerful force; I can partially express it by giving to the church.
- I am grateful and it keeps my heart open.
- I have gratitude for all I receive. I have love to offer and I have hope.
- Giving makes me feel like I am part of a community. I am a piece of the pie. I am included. So much has been given to me, I want to give back to make the cycle continue.
- I get so much more. I am filled with gratitude.
- I can and I want to remain grateful for all the blessings in my life.
- This church makes sense out of life! I am inspired regularly to be grateful for the blessings of my life.
- I am grateful to be a member of such a free and empowering community. Spiritual accepting, valuing and loving.
- I appreciate how the church has helped me grow. I hope it will continue to help all who need it.
- I give because I get back so much more. It is the only way to look for hope.
- This place feeds me so that I have the strength to go out and do

those small acts that help knit the world together t will come back to me tenfold in ways that I may never understand.

- It has been so freely given to me. It makes me feel alive.
- This church feels like home to me in every way I never knew was possible and I am so grateful for this community. I've never felt like myself more than when I am here. I am grateful and because I believe in a beautiful future for my children.
- When I do, I am giving to myself. It is because this church sites so closely in my heart.
- I want to give back to the faith community from which I receive inner peace and outward love.

IT FEELS GOOD

- When I give, I receive more of what I didn't realize I was looking for and needing.
- In this home the spirit of life truly does come to me.
- The church makes me a better and more intentional person, Thinking about others more.
- Because it feels good to share in the abundance I am blessed with.
- I can, and it makes me feel good and whole.

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- It makes me happy. It makes me feel whole.
- The world seems like a better place when I am part of making a positive contribution.
- I want to nurture my spiritual home. Giving is an energy that transforms me and others.

CHILDREN NEED THIS CHURCH

- My children think and behave differently since they have begun to truly comprehend and embrace "the rainbow path"
- The church is a spiritual home for our family.
- This church offers a wonderful and supporting community where we want to raise our children.
- I want to help others and teach my children to do the same.
- Our youth deserve a safe place to explore. Our youth need a place and space to experiment with different ways of being in the world.
- I want a place where my kids learn how to function in this world, fairly spiritually, where they know they are a part of something greater than themselves and their family.
- I want a better world for my children and their children.

I WANT THE CHURCH TO GROW

- I want what this church brings to the members and the community to grow.
- I want me/us to grow. Because this church gives so much to so many.
- First Universalist is the core of my community, one that reaches beyond itself but takes care of its own.
- I value the work of the church in the community.
- I want to help the church grow. It also makes me feel good to do this.
- I want to support the life and growth of this community that reflects my values and where I feel at home.
- We want to be a part of, and help grow, a church with an active progressive political and social conscience.
- I want to be a part of something more.