

## Pledging: The Basics

We are asking FCB members and friends to make a pledge by March 1, 2025, for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) to allow the church to plan its operating budget. Those pledges can be paid anytime up until June 30, 2026. Pledge payments can be made on-line by check or monthly automatic transfer. Gifts of stock or from an IRA account or donor-advised fund, with potential tax benefits for the donor, are also welcome. (Please review these gifts with a tax advisor.)

## Considering Your FY 2026 Pledge:

*Rooted in Love*  *Growing Together*

The pledge goal for the FY 2026 Stewardship Drive is \$700,000. This amount is primarily needed to provide compensation to our staff. Our staff creates a broad array of offerings: Sunday worship services, vespers, adult RE programs, rich musical offerings, and children's RE and youth programs. The staff also provides robust virtual programming, including podcasts, adult RE courses, programs linking us to the broader UU community, and weekly Sunday messages.

Reaching our pledge goal always takes increased pledges at all levels of giving. **In a typical year, pledging – especially at the higher levels – declines by 10-15% due to members or friends moving, retiring, or passing away. It is vital to the financial health of the church that we step forward with new leadership pledges and increases in other pledges each year to help take the**

**place of this reduction in pledges. It is our hope that you will give as generously as you can to this year's stewardship drive.**

## Suggested Annual Pledging

It is our responsibility as a faith community, grounded in covenant with one another, to recognize that we all have a role in the financial stability of our church. We all are—and will be—beneficiaries of our church's programs and services and of the beloved community overall. What our church offers, both in support of the congregation and in outreach to the larger world, is greatly needed. If you are able, please consider increasing your pledge this year. **Rooted in Love | Growing Together**, we will be the stewards of FCB's future through these changing times. ***Only we can make this happen!***

For additional information, please feel free to email us at [stewardship@uubelmont.org](mailto:stewardship@uubelmont.org).

With gratitude,

Your FCB Stewardship Committee,

*Katie Sasser & Mary Ellen Tuccillo*

*(co-chairs)*

*Godfrey Amphlett*

*Bill Beckett*

*Louise Bray*

*Lisa Hum*



## A Financial Overview



## Pledge Drive for Fiscal Year 2026

*(July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)*

## Finances at First Church

Thank you for your interest in the finances of The First Church in Belmont (FCB), and for recognizing our shared role as stewards of the church. At FCB, we strive to manage and report our finances transparently. This brochure aims to answer questions you may have about our income, our expenses, and how we maintain the fiscal health of our church.

### Expenses: What it Takes to Run FCB

Our annual operating budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, as approved at our June 2024 Annual Meeting, is \$984,475.

Major expense categories include:

**Staff:** FCB's staff supports a wide range of programs, including worship, music, children's and adult religious education, administration, and maintenance. Personnel costs are about 69% of our total budget. FCB follows UUA guidelines in setting fair and just compensation for our staff, but we have room to go to cover staff health insurance benefits comprehensively.

**Other Expenses:** This includes committee expenses, utilities, social action contributions, UUA dues, and building and administrative costs. These comprise about 30% of the total budget.

**Loan Expense:** FCB currently holds a \$92,860 loan from its endowment used to help pay for the installation of improved ventilation equipment in our church building. Annual debt service on this loan is \$11,585, only 1% of our budget.

## Income: Pledges Are the Foundation

**Pledges:** Pledges and donations from FCB members and friends make up 72% of our annual budget. Like other UU churches, FCB receives no outside financial support. Pledges from the congregation, which last year totaled \$657,980, cover the vast majority of the church's annual operating expenses.

**Rental Income:** Rental income is budgeted to increase to \$135,780. The primary source of rental income is a long-term lease for use of the Johnson House by the Henry Frost Children's Program, with additional income from summer rental of the church facility.

**Endowment Income:** The church's endowment provides some long-term stability to our operations. This year, the \$2.4 million church endowment will contribute \$75,129 to First Church.

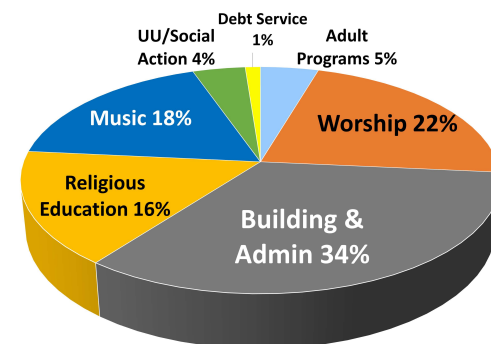
**Fundraisers:** Total income of \$40,925 from fundraisers including the fall children's musical.

**Offering:** Worship offering (both in-person and virtual) is budgeted to contribute \$25,000 toward church operations. This is in addition to offerings designated to support groups and causes outside FCB.

## Another View

The following two pie charts depict expenses by programmatic category and sources of church income:

*Fiscal Year 2025  
Budgeted Program Expenses*



*Fiscal Year 2025  
Budgeted Income*

