



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP *of* BOZEMAN

325 N. 25th Avenue • Bozeman, MT 59718-1368 • 406-586-1368 • uufbozeman.org • minister@uufbozeman.org • admin@uufbozeman.org

September 27, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of UUFB:

Meet the Moment is the theme of this year's Pledge Drive. For me, the phrase invites a simple question: What does this moment in the life of our Fellowship ask of us?

This year, the answer feels especially hopeful. After several years of changing ministerial staffing—from full-time, to half-time, to a lay-led year—we are thrilled to welcome our new full-time minister, Rev. Charlotte Lehmann. And 2027 will be the first budget year in this new chapter to support a full 12 months of Rev. Charlotte's ministry. Our 2026 budget was built to cover only part of a year of full-time ministerial salary; next year's budget must cover the full year. That change alone represents a significant increase in our expenses.

The Board's proposed 2027 budget also reflects other investments in the health and future of UUFB. It includes new outreach to the MSU community, more special music offerings, appropriate cost-of-living increases and professional development for our staff, and funding for the ministerial sabbatical fund. These are investments in the people, programs, and outreach that sustain a healthy congregation and help us welcome others into this community.

Together, these priorities mean that **we will need about \$25,000 more in pledge income** than in 2026. As we consider that goal, it is worth remembering how directly our budget depends on pledges. Last year, 95% of our income came from pledges. Our small endowment does not pay our expenses. We do not receive operating support from the UUA; in fact, as a member congregation, UUFB contributes each year to the UUA's Annual Program Fund. Our members and friends support this community.

That is why pledges matter so much. Each fall, a pledge is a good-faith estimate of what we expect to give during the coming year. Taken together, those commitments tell the Board how much income we can reasonably expect as we prepare the budget that Fellowship members will vote on in January.

We have another important goal this year: 100 pledging units. Even as our membership has grown, the number of individuals and families making pledges has declined to about 90 in the last two years. We want to reverse that trend—not because every pledge needs to be large, but because participation itself matters. The amount is less important than being part of the effort. A pledge is one way each of us can say, "This

community matters to me, and I am part of sustaining it.” Broad participation also makes our Fellowship financially stronger and less dependent on a smaller number of larger pledges.

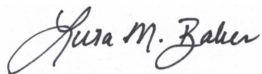
For some, meeting the moment may mean pledging for the first time. For others, it may mean increasing a pledge if circumstances allow. Our financial situations differ, but if UUFB is important to you, I hope you will make a pledge at whatever level is right for you.

You can pledge by returning the enclosed paper form or securely online at uufbozeman.org/pledge. All pledge information is confidential. Please submit your pledge by **November 6, 2026** so the Board can use our expected pledge income in preparing the proposed 2027 budget.

Thank you for everything you give to this Fellowship—your time, your energy, your care for one another, and your financial support. We have much to celebrate and much to build on.

Together, we can **Meet the Moment**.

In Fellowship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Baker".

Lisa Baker

UUFB President