



2021 President's Stewardship Letter

"Gathered here in the mystery and the power. Gathered here in one strong body. Spirit draw near."

Westwood Unitarian is one amazing little community. We have gathered regularly for almost 40 years, and now pandemic or not, we continue to do so. Following the guidance of science, we gather safely, online.

Sometimes it feels like a mystery that this community has survived, and thrived through good times and bad. And here we are in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, showing compassion, care, resiliency and creativity. We have had the unwavering support of our amazing staff, our minister, director of children and youth programs, and our office administrator, who have all gone above and beyond to respond to the crisis with a willingness to learn and adapt. We are indeed blessed.

We have numerous volunteers who have spent countless hours helping people connect, and reconnect, through online programming and our compassion bank. They have been supported by our fabulous communications team who have worked so hard to learn new skills and adapt to the ever changing needs. Our worship team rose to the challenge and had us online with weekly services, almost seamlessly. Although our beloved building is closed, we have ensured it is well maintained and ready for our return.

We have learned so much in the past year. One of the things we have learned is how much our community is enriched by being able to reach out beyond our small building and welcome people from far and wide to our services and programs. This was highly valued at our recent congregational meeting and there is a strong desire to maintain these connections going forward.

So as we continue to gather, via Zoom, for the foreseeable future, there are many questions and many uncertainties. Well, we are Unitarian Universalists. We like questions, and perhaps the best questions are those to which there are many answers. The big question of stewardship month is, will there be enough?

Enough people to step up and take on the roles and tasks to keep Westwood alive and moving forward?

Enough financial commitment to provide for the programming, staff, physical, and now especially, technological resources needed?

The message at the congregational meeting was clear. We look forward to being together again, and we want to maintain and grow connections with those who are unable to join us in person.

What are you able to contribute to ensure we continue to Gather Here?

Time? Volunteers are essential to the well being of this community.

Financial support? Every little bit helps.

A willingness to learn new skills? We have mentors.



I invite the spirit of Westwood Unitarian, that would be all of you, to help us continue to provide a compassionate community of free religious thought, where all people are invited to rest, grow and serve the world. May we long continue to gather here.

In gratitude for all you bring,

Brenda Jackson

President, Westwood Unitarian