



# BBUUC

*Our community. Our faith. Our story.*  
**Your support will shape the next chapter.**

 **Buckman Bridge  
Unitarian Universalist Church**

**O**ur congregation's story is a rich tapestry of people, events, service, commitments, achievements, disappointments, joys, sorrows, discoveries, risks, dedication, generosity, love, and so much more. We all bring a diverse assortment of threads to the task, which, in itself, is at the heart of our faith. Through this process, we are called to continually renew and revisit our Mission to create and nourish our loving community that seeks justice and respect for all.

**T**his past year has been challenging for all of us as individuals, families, and a faith community. Closing our doors last year was an unexpected turn of events that left many with a great sense of loss for the warmth and fellowship that is the hallmark of our congregation. **How could we go forward with our plans for professional ministry? How could we continue our vibrant Religious Education Program? How could we welcome new members and care for one another? How could we worship together without our beautiful sanctuary and in-person gathering? How could we continue to serve our congregation and our community with our presence, along with our presents?** All of these questions and more came raining down on our community last spring.

**Y**et, despite our doubts, fears, and uncertainties, so many of our members jumped in feet first and kept us afloat, holding on to our community, learning how to navigate the rough seas and unknown passages. We cheered one another on, tried new ways of doing things, learned much, held space for all of the outcomes, large and small. Things are not the same, but we are still a community—still BBUUC. We have learned that our congregation transcends our

building, and our collective spirit keeps us connected. **We DID bring Rev. Amy Moses-Lagos on board as our new minister. We DID grow our Lifespan Religious Education program, making our DRE a full-time employee. We DID continue worship—a virtual format paired with a Zoom Fellowship Hour for these times of social distancing.**

**T**hese alternative methods for keeping our community connected have been challenging. Our Membership and Caring Committees have worked hard to stay in touch, help those in need, and strengthen our connections. Our Board, Committees, and Ministries are still meeting and doing the work of the church. We know that members and friends have had adjustments to make to participate and that some of our folks have been unable to connect with these alternative methods or choose not to do so. We are painfully aware that some of our dear ones don't come to our virtual programs and may feel more disconnected than those who do, and are missed. We will continue to reach out and find every means possible to provide opportunities to connect and reach out to BBUUC members and friends until we can return to in-person activities.

**W**e have nearly reached the anniversary of our building closure. There has been progress with the distribution of vaccines and more knowledge of the virus itself. We are looking with renewed hope to a future that sees us safely back in our church building. That date is still unknown at this time, but our leadership has begun to review guidelines and planning for the return. We are called to hold the course as a community, find creative ways to stay engaged, and continue to do the ministry of our church around the challenges of social distancing and virtual gatherings...until we can "gather the spirit" in person, once again.



**When considering your pledge for the 2021–2022 year, we ask you to remember that, while we cannot meet in person right now, WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

Each year in March, we ask you to renew your support for the Mission of BBUUC in the coming fiscal year with an annual pledge during our Stewardship Campaign. The new fiscal year runs from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. As a free church, our operating costs are funded by your contributions. Your pledges allow us to plan our upcoming budget to do our church's work—the worship, programs, and resources that enable us to answer the call for love, compassion, reason, and justice.

**For the upcoming fiscal year, our goal is to receive pledges totaling \$180,000 for our proposed budget, which will be submitted for approval by BBUUC members at the Annual Meeting in May.**

This budget reflects additional annual costs realized with the fulfillment of two major goals from this year: Hiring our half-time Minister and increasing our Director of Religious Education's position from three-quarter-time to full-time. These reflect a commitment to deepening our UU faith and placing great importance on the spiritual and ethical education of our children, moving through our entire lifespan of growth and learning.

**Breakdown of additional costs for Ministry and Education:**

Minister's Salary	\$ 34,000
Minister's Prof. Expenses	\$ 3,400
Minister/in lieu of FICA	\$ 2,600
DRE Full-time salary incr.	\$ 9,600
	<u>\$ 49,600</u>

You can submit your pledge for the 2021-2022 year through our [on-line pledge form](#). If you prefer to fill out a paper form, contact [finance@bbuuc.org](mailto:finance@bbuuc.org) and we will send a pledge form to you by U.S. Mail or to your personal email address.

Your generous financial support allows us to thrive as a faith community, strengthen our bonds of kinship and stay united in our covenant. It allows us to maintain our building, grounds and staff for our return and beyond. With professional ministry and a vibrant Lifespan Religious Education program, we can put our Unitarian Universalist principles into action now and for future generations!

**Our goal is 100% return of pledge cards from every Member before March 31.**

# BBUUC

*Our community. Our faith. Our story...  
of  
Generosity!*

**Thank you** for your  
**generous offertory donations**  
**during this time of virtual worship!**



Our deepest gratitude to BBUUC members and friends who have contributed to our virtual offertory this past year! We have given our entire plate collection each week to UUA and local community partners whose goals and values we support, as well as our own Emergency Caring Fund.

Your generosity contributed **\$9,200** to our **Emergency Caring Fund**, which gives our own members anonymous financial assistance related to illness, disability, death, loss of income, or act of nature. This fund is maintained through donations only and is not part of our operational budget. **What a great gift to our community during a tremendous time of need in our world!**

In addition to the Emergency Caring Fund, Your total donations through February of **\$4,015** were given to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), UU the Vote, Side with Love, BBUUC's Rainbow/Welcoming Ministry benefiting JASMYN and the Northeast Florida AIDS Network, Clothes Closet & Food Pantry (with a generous and anonymous matching donation), and Feeding Northeast Florida.



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