



Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt & Rev. Christian Schmidt, Co-Ministers
Catherine Boyle, Acting Director of Family Ministry
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March 1, 2020

Dear members and friends,

What a dynamic time to be part of UUCB! Because of the many ways you give from deep within, our congregation has done some great ministry together over the last year. We hired Tess Snook O’Riva, our wonderful Executive Director, who has brought wisdom and organization to our administration and improved our financial transparency. We hosted an OWL training for about 80 area UUs and then welcomed Catherine Boyle, Acting Director of Family Ministry, whom the congregation just voted to ordain. We widened our welcome to children and families with our “Pray-ground” at the front of the Sanctuary. We’re living into our commitment to accessibility with the installation of the ramp up to the Chancel in the Sanctuary. Chalice Circles and our Aging with Grace group continue to be places of deep connection. Even our community presence has grown with the crowd that came to hear Tim Wise at our Lawrence Lecture and through our participation in the El Cerrito Martin Luther King Day Parade.

UUCB is blessed to have strong roots. But it’s the new life, ideas, and possibilities springing up among us that excites us most about the future. As a way of harnessing all of this good energy, plans are in the works for a three year plan following the main groups of our ends (or goals) as a congregation: Reaching Out, Reaching In, and Building Up. Our new Connections Coordinator will begin work with us in March, and will help empower our shared work to Reach Out to those in our communities in the 2020-2021 church year. The following year we’ll Reach In and focus on our congregation and our covenant. Then in 2022 we’ll shift to Building Up with a planned capital campaign to address deferred maintenance on our Kensington campus.

Whatever it is that draws you to UUCB, we’re glad that you’re here. And we hope you’ll make a generous financial pledge so we can continue to expand all of the good we do together. We know that making a pledge is a personal decision. For some of us giving \$25 a month is a stretch while others are privileged to be able to give much more. We hope you know that whatever you’re able to give, your generosity matters and we are grateful for it.

As you discern how much you or your family can pledge this year, we encourage you to consider all of the support, inspiration, fun, and learning this congregation brings into your life, and the hopes you have for all of the ways we can grow together into the future. We encourage you to review the Bronze, Silver, and Gold giving levels in the enclosed brochure to see what your generosity could make possible here at UUCB next year. When you're ready, just fill out the pledge page and return either by mail or in person by Celebration Sunday, March 29. If you'd prefer to pledge online, keep an eye out in your email for a link to the online pledge form.

At UUCB, it is our mission "to create loving community, inspire spiritual growth, and encourage lives of integrity, joy, and service." This church forms fertile ground for the promising parts of ourselves and the new life branching out among us to take root. Please join us in tending UUCB's many seeds of promise by making your annual financial commitment. And together we will grow into the congregation the East Bay and our children need us to be.

In faith,

The Stewardship Committee

Lynne Cahoon

Michael Armstrong

Kathryn Jay

Mac Lingo

Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt