

# OUR HUMAN NEEDS APPEAL

## Helping the Wider World

FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS the Human Needs Appeal has distributed funds from our members' pledges to organizations that work to solve social justice problems and serve the needs of people in the University District.

IN 2023, the Human Needs Appeal has aided the Country Doctor Free Teen Clinic, the Elizabeth Gregory Home, the People's Harm Reduction Alliance, Teen Feed, the United Churches Emergency Fund and the University District Food Bank.

### OUR SERVICE AGENCY DIRECTORS SAY:

*Thank you. ... These funds will help sustain our work in providing a welcoming and respectful refuge where ALL women experiencing homelessness, trauma, or economic insecurity have access to a caring community and critical resources.* – **Executive Director, Elizabeth Gregory Home**

*We have seen an unprecedented need for rental and utility assistance. Gifts like yours have made it possible for UCEF to continue to provide for people in need. ... Together we are making a difference, one family and one person at a time.* -- **Executive Director, United Churches Emergency Fund**

*Thanks so much to you and all those in University Gathering! We are so appreciative of your many years of support.* – **Grant Manager, People's Harm Reduction Alliance**

IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, please help us continue our tradition of reaching beyond our church boundaries to those in need. Please consider a generous pledge to the Human Needs Appeal.



**University Gathering**  
United Methodist Church

*Mike and I are long time members of UMT/University Gathering; we have seen the church go through many transitions. We continue to pledge because we believe in the outreach efforts of the congregation and the community that, led by Pastor Paul, we are creating.* – **Mike and Sue Wallace**

## Community Outreach



## How much will I pledge?

Estimated Income	\$1000 (month) \$12,000 (year)	\$2500 (month) \$30,000 (year)	\$5000 (month) \$60,000 (year)	\$10,000 (month) \$120,000 (year)
2%	\$20 (month) \$240 (year)	\$50 (month) \$600 (year)	\$100 (month) \$1,200 (year)	\$200 (month) \$2,400 (year)
5%	\$50 (month) \$600 (year)	\$125 (month) \$1,500 (year)	\$250 (month) \$3,000 (year)	\$500 (month) \$6,000 (year)
7%	\$70 (month) \$840 (year)	\$175 (month) \$2,100 (year)	\$350 (month) \$4,200 (year)	\$700 (month) \$8,400 (year)
10%	\$100 (month) \$1,200 (year)	\$250 (month) \$3,000 (year)	\$500 (month) \$6,000 (year)	\$1000 (month) \$12,000 (year)



Kindred in Christ,

In the letter to the ancient church of Philippi, the Apostle Paul writes, *Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me.* (Philippians 3:12) If in some way Christ has touched or laid hold of your life through the ministry of University Gathering UMC, then we invite you to join us in pressing on and running the race into our future. Your financial pledges help us not only create a responsible operating budget for the year to come, but empower us to continue unfolding God's love, inclusion, and justice in new ways in the U District of Seattle.



This past year we welcomed nine new official members to our congregation! And we have shared power with multiple new leaders who are helping us grow toward the goals that God is laying out before us. Over the past three years of serving as your Lead Pastor, I have witnessed us form teams of both longtime members and new members to help us update our church name to reflect the gathering of people we are called to be, hire a new worship leader to lead us in choir, hymns and new songs, and now we are searching for a new interim location to, among other things, help us have a facility where we can meet during the week and have greater presence and impact in our neighborhood. We resurrected children's ministry a little over two years ago and we now have an average of 4-7 children attending on Sundays, and new families connecting in our community outreach events and weekly worship.





In fact, due to this growth, we have discerned that it is the right time to invest further in our children and families ministry as well as outreach. Under the guidance of our Staff Parish Relations Committee and Church Council, we have approved the creation of an updated, full-time staff position for a Children and Families Minister who will work closely with our leadership and myself (Pastor Paul) to both minister to our present children during our weekly gatherings, as well as help host outreach events and connect with new families in our neighborhood. We have already gained traction in both of these fields, and realize that it is time to hire someone full-time to help take us to the next level of intergenerational church growth. I am thrilled that we have discerned to take this next faithful step together!



This past year we also came together for several all-community conversations and church votes as we discerned how to move forward with our building campaign and decisions around the kind of building project we want to create in the future. As I recall the journey and all the goals we have accomplished along the way, I also realize that the journey is just beginning! I hope you will prayerfully consider joining our financial resources, so that we can run into the future that God has for us together.

Alongside you,

*Paul*

*I love that I can be at U gathering on any given Sunday, no matter where I am emotionally or spiritually, and know I'll enjoy seeing old friends and celebrating new connections; know that I'll hear a message of inclusivity, welcome and invitation; know that my teens (even if not attending that day) are seen and valued by the relevant and gender-affirming language and message; and finally, know (or re-learn) that I am part of the "everyone" continuously invited to God's loving table. – Julianne Hake*

**Earth Day**



**Pride Sunday**



*My name is Joey Chin and I have been a member with University Gathering for a little over a year now. I choose to support and participate in the ministry at University Gathering because I believe in the church's efforts to create an inclusive faith community where people can find a space to engage with their spirituality and collectively work towards creating a more just world. The church has specifically been able to do this in the context of the University District for over 100 years. I am grateful to have the opportunity to maintain a connection to the place I graduated from in 2019 by being a part of outreach events, meet-ups, and Sunday morning worship through this church. I look forward to continuing to build upon the strong foundation of faith University Gathering has established in order to create something new and exciting in the University District. -Joey Chin*