

## FROM OUR LEADERS:

The Board of Trustees and our church leaders commit themselves to meeting the congregation's expectations of a full-service church. But the job of meeting those expectations *depends on the support of each and every one of us*. Creating a community and living our values – these require resources, both human and financial, from as many people as possible. We need to walk this road together, with love and generosity, so that our resources reflect our values so that our faith can thrive for generations to come.

**The time to build this future is now!** In order for this to happen, in order to sustain and better manage our current ministries, in order to create new programs that so many of you have desired and dreamed of, we need everyone to stretch their giving.

In that spirit, and with gratitude for your generosity, we are asking you to **“STRIVE FOR FIVE”**. See the inserts for details. As you consider your pledge, please take time to reflect on the following questions:

- **What prevents you from giving as much as you would like?**
- **How does your spending reflect your values? How do your values reflect your spending?**
- **What use of your resources makes you feel satisfied and in right relationship with yourself?**

## A Future Vision for SUUS!

- A strong minister and staff to support our congregational needs
- Vibrant, compelling, and engaging Sunday services
- Upgrade online presence, to reach beyond our sanctuary
- Expand programming for children, youth, and adults
- Additional resources to support our social justice work
- More dynamic music programs
- Dedicate resources to make our building more accessible to all
- Dedicate resources to become a Green Sanctuary
- Become a greater presence on the Shoreline
- Manage our valuable Vision Fund for major initiatives

## FROM REV. JADE:

What an exciting time for SUUS! The congregation has come through the worst of the COVID pandemic. You're about to have a new minister who is joyfully looking forward to an open-ended future with you. It's a perfect time to re-imagine faith formation, both for our children and youth, and for adults—those already among you and those who will join you in the year ahead.

**At this great time in SUUS' life, it is more important than ever to support your best aspirations for your religious home with a fair share financial pledge.**

Perhaps pledging is new to you. Let me say this: it's not like buying a gym membership or making a modest donation to an organization whose work you admire. No, this is your community of belonging, of personal and spiritual growth, of a kind of mutuality and love like no other.

Some people tithe, that is, they automatically pledge 10% of their adjusted income. This is true in many traditions, rich or poor or in-between. SUUS asks you to aim first for 5% or more of your “net net”, adjusted income as it appears on your federal tax form minus vital family commitments that tax laws do not account for.

Follow this 5% SUUS plan, or tithe if you feel called to a bigger stretch—and I hope some of you will. This is the perfect year to give to your religious home as much as you possibly can. Your sense of commitment will increase. Your sense of connection to SUUS' mission will multiply. Whether we are talking \$100 or \$10,000 or some amount in-between, the future is now!

**Enjoy, truly enjoy the stretch and all the good that can come from it.**