

BROOKLYN

The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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February 18, 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

In the late 1700's, map makers and cartographers, needing navigation tools and maybe diversions on their journeys, invented jigsaw puzzles. From wooden pieces to die cut cardboard ones, the puzzles have evolved ever since, and they're marketed today for all ages. During these pandemic days, the sale and popularity of puzzles surged as young (including our children and grandchildren) and old seek diversion, focus, stress reduction, and meditation. The young especially cycle through them quickly, as evidenced by the proliferation of puzzles left on Brooklyn sidewalks for passers-by to take away.

We're sending you a puzzle piece. Save it, in a special place, until we can gather together in our Sanctuary once again. When the time comes bring your puzzle piece to that sacred space, where we'll assemble the puzzle piece by piece.



You may recognize how blemished even a thousand-piece puzzle appears with even one piece missing. In that spirit, we intend this piece to emphasize how important each one of us is to the whole. Each one of us adds dimension, interest, commitment, and not least, quirkiness, to construct the wholeness which is First U Brooklyn. We need each piece to fully realize our mission in this puzzling world.

As we write to you, our Stewardship Campaign is about to begin. The theme "Together in Spirit" calls us to celebrate the cohesion of our congregation in our work and time

together, even when we're separated physically and certainly once we no longer are. There are so many pieces that connect us:

Every year, we draw up a budget that sustains and grows our transformative work by funding our staff, our building, and our programming. This year, we ask you to reflect on all the pieces of this shared life that connect us. What has brought you joy or comfort? What has inspired you and stretched your mind, heart, and soul? How do you sustain and affect the puzzle?

Our budget is based on pledges, rentals, and endowment contributions. Last year pledges generated approximately *one third* of our yearly financial need.

In the coming week you will receive an invitation to a zoom event hosted by a member of our congregation. At this event you have a chance to share your story and hear the stories of others. You'll also be treated to an eye-stingingly beautiful video (and may see yourself in it). There will be no hard sell, no pie charts, no budgets. Just the chance to be *together in spirit!* We hope you will be inspired to complete your pledge form right there. Of course, if you'd rather meet with a member of our stewardship team, contact Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org). She will be happy to set that up for you.

Please help us put it all together in 2021-22, piece by piece, person by person.

Sincere thanks,

Colleen Olson
Board Co-President

Amit Metha
Board Co-President