



Keep Our Lights Burning 2025 Stewardship Campaign

Co-Chaired by Kathi Appelt & Liz Brackeen

Dear UUCBV Member or Friend,

Every year we come to the table to review our financial obligations, and to decide how we, both communally and individually, can meet those commitments. This year, we have chosen the theme: "keeping our lights burning."

After all, at its most basic level, we have to raise enough funds to keep the lights turned on. Our staff, along with the board, have been very conscientious about conserving energy, and making our footprint as green as possible. That helps with utilities and maintenance. Plus, we have a terrific gardening team that helps with landscaping, alleviating some of those expenses. In so many ways, we are being good stewards of our planet.

But at a more existential level, we need to be sure that we can financially sustain our big-hearted and inclusive efforts on behalf of our broader community. In these difficult times, our outreach and our openness are more important than ever. We need to shine our light so that we can continue to be that bright beacon when there is so much darkness all about.

How do we do this?

Our communal fund-raising involves events that bring us all together, to display our talents, to celebrate big milestones, and to share our common spirit. These group activities not only raise funds, they also give us space to laugh and cry and dance and break bread together. They're important.

At the same time, our individual support is a private decision that requires us to separately take a clear-eyed look at what we can do when it comes to making our pledges. It's a promise we make, isn't it?

And it's also a payment on a dream, a dream that the UUCBV will continue to be, and continue to grow. It's a dream that our kids will have a place to return to when they fly away from us, a dream of holding each other as we move forward together.

So much about money is necessary, but it's also intangible.

This year, Rev. Kiya and Allison, along with the Board, have presented us with a budget that is reflective of the uncertainties of our times. It's the lowest budget we've had in several years, based upon our understanding that the turmoil that is rocking our nation is also present here in the Brazos Valley. We are not exempt, and we doubtless have members who are caught in the chaos and uncertainty for sure. At the end of the day, it's not necessarily how much you pledge as that you pledge. That's where the light is brightest. It's where the promise becomes the dream.

As your stewardship team we have been tasked with raising \$120,000 for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The bulk of the money goes toward the salaries for Kiya and Allison. We are kicking off our campaign with a catered taco bar lunch after service at **Noon on April 6th**. We hope you will join us then.

You can also visit our website at brazos-uu.org/stewardship where you will find information on how UUCBV has spent its funds in the past, how we plan to spend our funds in the upcoming year, and information on recommended giving from the Unitarian Universalist Association.

We are grateful to be with you as we work and dream for the future that we all want. Help us continue that work by joining us for our April 6th event, and committing your pledge by completing this form:

<https://uucbv.breezechms.com/form/59853c>

If you have any questions, reach out to any of us on Stewardship or call the church at 979-213-8789.

In Community.

Liz Brackeen & Kathi Appelt

Rev. Kiya Heartwood

Nicole Rowlette

Stewardship Co-Chairs

Minister UUCBV

Board President

In Brief:

Our Goal for 2025-26 is \$120,000 in pledges.

- Members and friends are asked to pledge annually so that we can create an accurate budget for our expenses for the coming year.
- We have been in the new building for 15 months and we are growing quickly in membership and services.
- We have reduced the total amount of our goal from previous years so that we can be flexible during the current political and financial uncertainty.
- Join us for a catered taco lunch on **04/6/25**
- Please complete your pledge by picking up or [printing](#), filling in and returning or submitting electronically here <https://uucbv.breezechms.com/form/59853c> by **04/27/25**.
- For more detailed information visit brazos-uu.org/stewardship