

# Countryside Church

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

• *Create Belonging* • *Inspire Curiosity* • *Heal our World*



February 2026

Dear Countryside Members and Friends,

On Sunday, February 15, we begin our annual stewardship campaign or pledge drive. The theme for this year's campaign is "**Rooted in Love, Growing Our Future.**" As I think about our theme, I find it particularly relevant to my own experience here at Countryside. Robin and I joined this community nearly 30 years ago. We immediately felt welcome here, and we continue to feel strong bonds of kinship and love. As members of this wonderful community, we have planted our religious and spiritual roots here. Over these many years, we have witnessed numerous changes and have experienced this community growing in various ways. It's hard to imagine what our lives would be like without this supportive, loving community.

I know you, like me, are grateful for this community and we show our gratitude by volunteering our time and contributing our money. I trust that all of us will continue to do so. However, I know we have an additional challenge this year with Reverend Pam and Reverend Karen retiring. There is uncertainty about who our next minister will be and what they will be like. No one can know for certain what the future will hold, but I know that we are a vibrant, resilient and accomplished congregation. I am confident we can attract qualified ministerial candidates and hire a minister who can grow with us in the future.

With all the insanity going on in our country and the world right now, we all need a community like Countryside Church to ground us and sustain us. To give us the strength to stand up for what is right and what is good. So, despite the uncertainty, I urge you to renew your commitment of financial support to Countryside Church, so that it will thrive not only next year but for years to come. Please be as generous as possible – so that this community can continue to be rooted in love and grow into a brighter future.

Thank you,

Gary LaBedz  
President, Board of Trustees