



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis

*Inspiring and Empowering all Souls to Live Bold and Compassionate Lives!*

Dear UUCA Community,

November 25, 2020

Throughout 2020, we have had many real and overwhelming challenges. You may also have wondered, "How will I navigate this?" Our answer: by being in it together. Let's consider that with awe.

We collectively agreed to keep our members and friends safe by becoming a virtual church until we have a clear picture of what attending in person could look like safely. We showed that we were devoted to democracy, with many of our people and our energies focused on increasing voter turnout in the 2020 elections. We welcomed new members and celebrated seeing distant members return to their spiritual home. Our anti-racism engagement has been a journey but it is trending towards joy, as we embrace learning and growth, care and inclusion, and partnership and commitment. Our participation in our small groups is up, and, though we miss being in our sanctuary together, our Zoom worship services have been meaningful, emotional, inspiring and thought-provoking. So we celebrate.

**Will you celebrate with us?** Join us Dec 5 for our **Winter Celebration** (rain date Dec 12). Come experience the turning of the season, the holidays, and our *community* with warm soup, creative activities, story-telling, and joy.

**Help us to end this year strong in celebration of all we have done together, by making an end-of-year gift to UUCA.** As you ponder making a contribution to our community:

- Consider, as the calendar and tax year ends, whether and how you are able to make financial gifts to organizations that reflect your values.
- Is the pandemic affecting your traditional holiday plans? Perhaps you can redirect the money usually spent on travel, parties, and outings towards making a charitable gift.
- If you are someone who can afford to give more, please consider stretching a little more to help cover those who can no longer afford to be generous due to under employment or job loss.
- If you are someone with a 401K distribution see the attachment about potential tax benefits to directing such funds to UUCA.

**How to Give:** You can give an end-of-year gift to UUCA by bringing your check or completed gift form to the Winter Celebration; through the online gift form, or by mailing in your check or completed gift form using the enclosed envelope.

We thank you for all that you offer to UUCA, which makes so much possible for our community, the Annapolis area, and Unitarian Universalism's living tradition.

Yours in service

*Heather Millar*

Heather Millar  
President

*Rev. John Crestwell*

Rev. John Crestwell  
Minister

Jackie Heimbuch  
Stewardship Team, Chair

*Rev. Anastassia Zinke*

Rev. Anastassia Zinke  
Minister

## Tax Considerations Regarding Ways to Give to UUCA

It is worth reviewing ways how you can share with UUCA this year, especially given certain provisions in the SECURE and CARES Acts.

1. Give cash as you normally do.

Starting in 2020 there is a new tax deduction for individuals who take the standard deduction on their tax return. The CARES Act allows those eligible to take up to a \$300 deduction off their income tax for charitable gifts.

Cash gifts are seen favorably to high-income individuals this year as well. Usually, individuals are limited to deducting 60% of their Adjusted Gross Income to charity when gifting by cash. This year only, legislated by the CARES Act, you can use 100% of AGI for cash gifts as a deduction on your tax return.

2. Gift appreciated stock.

Use this year as an opportunity to review any stocks in a taxable account that have increased in value overtime that, if sold, would cause you to pay capital gains tax. Instead of selling that security, gift it to UUCA. It will get the full value of the gift without having to pay taxes on the sale.

3. If you are 70 ½ , you are still eligible to make a cash gift from your IRA tax free as a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

Even though the required distribution rules have been changed and even waived for 2020, writing a check or transferring stock directly from your IRA will reduce the amount of taxable dollars you take out of your tax deferred accounts during your lifetime.

4. Don't Wait Until the Last Week of December!

This ensures that the charity can mark the gift as received for the 2020 fiscal and tax year. The following cut off rules apply to how your gift needs to be reported by you to the IRS:

- If you deliver in person, the check has to be physically received by the organization by Dec. 31. It is the same if you use a private delivery service such as FedEx or UPS,
- If mailed by the U.S. Postal Service, the letter must be postmarked by Dec. 31.
- If paid by Credit Card, your gift must be "Fully processed," i.e., approved by the credit card issuer by Dec. 31.

Thank you for your careful consideration and your generosity in support of UUCA.

*Disclaimer: We are providing some general information about charitable donations; please check with your own advisor to ensure this fits your situation.*