
The Joy of Giving

Our congregation is doing more than ever to change the world around us for the better. Follen depends on members and friends like you to continue this important work. As you prepare to make your pledge this year, please consider the difference the Follen community has made in your own life. Give because you believe in our mission. Give because you want Follen to thrive. And, above all, give because of the joy that being part of this wonderful community brings to all of us.



In faith,
Rev. Claire Feingold Thoryn

Voices from Our Community

The Senior Choir was the first group I joined at Follen. It provided me with an instant connection to a welcoming group of people and the opportunity to be part of wonderful music-making. I still find it hard to believe that I can walk to the little church in my neighborhood and experience such deeply moving music. I have learned so much from Thomas – about music and about humanity.

As much as I will miss Thomas and Holly, they – and Louise Curtis before them – leave such a strong legacy that I find myself growing increasingly excited to see what new roads we will travel with our next music director.

Laura Maltby

I was longing for a spiritual home for myself and my 2 daughters, at the time ages 10 and 13. Caroline met Barbara Marshman; Allison met Amy Smith; I met Mary Oliver. My heart found a home.

Kay Lamer

How to Give

We can all pledge as generously as possible to support our staff and our community. Over the next few weeks, your visiting steward will contact you regarding your pledge for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Following your conversation with your steward, please communicate your pledge promptly by emailing the Church Administrator at sarah.garner@follen.org no later than January 31, 2016. Meeting this date is necessary for Follen to plan our budget for the coming year. All pledges are confidential, and every pledge, no matter the amount, is welcomed and greatly appreciated.



Keeping Follen Strong Sustaining Our Mission

This is a time of significant growth and change for all of us in the Follen community. We are making a significant investment in new staff, we are welcoming more and more new members, we are experiencing increased demand for our youth activities, and we are supporting more social justice causes than ever before.

Follen is committed to fulfilling its mission of ministry to its members and the surrounding community through its programs and volunteer efforts. As our numbers grow, so does our potential to make an even bigger impact in the world. But to do so, **we need everyone's help in pledging financial support to Follen.**

Each year over 75% of our annual budget comes from pledges. And over 75% of our spending is for staff. This year's fundraising goal is \$520,000. Raising this amount will enable us, among other objectives, to support the new Director of Community Engagement for a full year, and provide the resources for engaging the Music staff succession we all want.

Keeping Follen Strong

As Unitarian Universalists, we support each other in our spiritual growth. Your pledge to Follen is a tangible expression of that commitment.

Staff Support for Growth

As Follen grows, we rely more and more on our staff of dedicated professionals to reach out to new members and coordinate our volunteers. Existing roles are expanding to meet the needs of our congregation, and we also want to continue efforts to “right size” staff salaries and benefits.

- We will have our new Director of Community Engagement for a full year.
- We need to provide the Music Succession search team with resources that will attract the highest quality candidates.
- We will engage a new part-time Youth Advisor and RE and Nursery help to support our second services on multi-generational Sundays.
- We will continue to be a teaching congregation engaging a new ministerial intern.
- We need to anticipate the provision of health insurance benefits to this new staff.
- We need to provide the resources that will permit the conduct of Sunday worship services throughout the summer...making Follen for the first time a 12-month Church.
- We need to continue to compensate all staff (ministerial and operational) as generously as we can to encourage their retention.

Follen is essentially people...the people up front and behind the scenes, including all of us who volunteer our time and energy. Engaging and keeping the right staff is our best assurance that Follen will be there for us and for those who come after us. Your pledge will help keep Follen strong.

The RE program has been one of the most important things in my life growing up. The lessons I've learned and the experiences I've had while being a part of RE and FUUY have made me a better person and given me a group of friends which will last for a very long time, maybe even the rest of my life.

Dennis Bromley



Investing in Our Youth

Many families are drawn to Follen for our vibrant youth programs. Over 160 students are enrolled in our Religious Education classes – a number that keeps increasing. Most of them are engaged in the middle school and high school (FUUY) youth groups, the youth and junior choirs, the unique Coming of Age program, and the innovative Our Whole Lives curriculum. They also take advantage of opportunities to participate in the cherished annual Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and the FUUY service trips to New Orleans. These programs can only happen with strong staff support.

Generosity for the Greater Good

Follenites are extraordinarily generous with the time, energy and resources they devote to social justice causes. Our volunteers are now active in more than ten groups and have been working hard to make the world a better place! With your help, the Follen community can continue the extraordinary support we provide to:

- Our Partner Church in Transylvania,
- The Kiva MicroLoans program,
- The Lexington Interfaith Garden,
- Saturday's/Sunday's Bread in Boston,
- Lex Eat Together,
- The Gun Violence Prevention Group,
- Women's Lunch Place,
- The UU Urban Ministry,
- New Orleans Gulf Relief, and
- The Sally and Dennis Brown Fund for Youth Social Justice Training.

Questions? Contact stewardship@follen.org