



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

March 2017 Newsletter

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

Treasury Report for the 8 Months Ending February 28th, 2017 Joanne Michalski, Treasurer

Actual Pledges	\$165,464
Budgeted Pledges	\$169,355
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$(3,891)

be paid in full by 6/30/2017. I will send pledge statements out in April showing what members have left to pay. If you are behind, please try to make it up over the last three months of the fiscal year. If you don't know what you owe, email me, Joanne Michalski, at treasurer@firsttuchicago.org.

We are behind budget on pledge collections, which is unusual at this time of year. Please remember that your 2016-17 pledge should

	Actual	Budgeted
Total Revenues for 8 months	\$334,336	\$336,008
Total Expenses for 8 months	\$324,540	\$342,675
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	\$9,796	\$(6,667)

Don't be fooled by the healthy-looking surplus of \$9,796. We still have winter utilities to pay and a number of repairs around the building. We allowed \$15,000 in our budget for major repairs and there are some plans in the works for necessary projects. Two areas of concern are Music and Worship. We cut those budgets due to the loss of a significant rental (\$7,200); we should not have cut back as much on these important areas. Another item to note is the budgeted loss of \$6,667. We budget to break even; however, we will not include budget

revenue from our fundraiser until it is held in April. This budget "deficit" is a phasing issue and will zero out at year end.

Two things we can all do to help First U stay on track: Pay pledges by June 30th, and be sure to attend our annual auction on Saturday, May 6th.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about finances contact me at treasurer@firsttuchicago.org.

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Musical Notes

Jeffery Hamrick, Musical Director

The First Unitarian Choir has welcomed several new members this past year, and I'd like to take this opportunity to shine the spotlight on them. They are:

Althea Davis (alto)
Bill Bassin (tenor)
Mairin O'Steen (soprano)
Sophia Watson (alto)

Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and beautiful singing with us! (The choir is open to any who wish to join. No previous experience is required, though the ability to read music is always helpful.)

During April, the choir will be singing some gorgeous repertoire that you won't want to miss:

April 2: *Die Gedanken sind frei*, by UU composer Elizabeth Alexander. This is a masterful and clever (more clever than gorgeous!) setting of hymn 291, which is itself a UU adaptation of an Alsatian folk song.

April 9: *I Am in Need of Music*, by David Brunner. This is a lush setting of a poem by Elizabeth Bishop.

April 16: *Wana baraka*, the most celebrated work by Los Angeles-based composer Shawn Kirchner (we were once fellow choristers in the Schola Cantorum of St. Peters in the Loop!). This piece, selected for our Easter celebration, is based on a Kenyan sacred song whose Swahili lyrics proclaim: "They have blessings [*baraka*], those who pray ... Alleluya!"

Finally, for April 23, our Earth Day service invites us to celebrate the beauty of our "Blue Boat Home," but we also are mindful of the many challenges and threats to our planet. The choir will present a number of works in observance of the time:

A movement from *Songs of Nature* by Antonín Dvořák
Earth Song, by Frank Ticheli
Famine Song, by VIDA, arr. Matthew Culloton, and
Peace of Wild Things, a masterful setting of the poetry of Wendell Berry by Bloomington, Indiana-based composer Malcolm Dalglish.

May our music always be a source of inspiration and a channel of peace!

I Am in Need of Music

Elizabeth Bishop

I am in need of music that would flow
Over my fretful, feeling fingertips,
Over my bitter-tainted, trembling lips,
With melody, deep, clear, and liquid-slow.
Oh, for the healing swaying, old and low,
Of some song sung to rest the tired dead,
A song to fall like water on my head,
And over quivering limbs, dream flushed
to glow!

There is a magic made by melody:
A spell of rest, and quiet breath, and cool
Heart, that sinks through fading colors deep
To the subaqueous stillness of the sea,
And floats forever in a moon-green pool,
Held in the arms of rhythm and of sleep

UU Military Ministry Great Lakes Drive Rev. Rudra Vilius Dundzila

The Unitarian Universalist Military Ministry Great Lakes offers weekly Unitarian Universalist worship for young adult Navy recruits. Great Lakes Naval Station is 25 miles north of Chicago and 20 miles south of Kenosha on the shores of Lake Michigan. All Navy recruits attend basic training (boot camp) there. Last year, 550 young adults attended our UUMMGL worship services.

UUMMGL will be conducting a Faithify drive in April. We need \$5,300 to reach our fiscal year 2017-2018 budget. Our annual budget this year is \$9,300. The budget pays for the ministerial coordinator, UU religious literature for the recruits, and the miscellaneous incidentals for worship and an

Illinois not-for-profit. The ministry distributes about 500 copies of the UUA's *Bless All Who Serve: Sources of Hope, Courage and Faith for Military Personnel and their Families* and 100 copies of *Becoming: A Spiritual Guide for Navigating Young Adulthood*.

More information about the ministry is available at the web site www.uummgl.org. Please donate generously at the Faithify link:

<https://www.faithify.org/projects/support-uu-young-adult-worship-at-navy-boot-camp/>.

Thank you.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Co-Ministers' Office Hours

Rev. David Schwartz, by appointment on
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday

Rev. Teri Schwartz, by appointment on
Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

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