



Saint John's Unitarian Universalist Church

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Dear St. John's Congregants,

"it is important that we commit to one another, to visitors, and to the next generation, so that they will cherish the place where the spirit is nourished, where our community renews its bonds, where we share meals, work on life's questions, share our pain and joy, or unite to work to untangle the dilemmas of our wider world." So wrote Matthew Peterson, President of St. John's Board of Trustees, in his recent letter to congregants. I hope that, like me, you were inspired by Matthew's words, and reminded of the importance of St. John's in your life. His letter is posted on the St. John's website, in case you missed it.

In today's sermon, Rev. Mitra asks an important question: "What Do We Give Ourselves To?" I believe that at St. John's, we give ourselves to this MISSION:

- Creating a safe and caring community
- Working for peace and social justice
- Celebrating beliefs that respect freedom of thought

We do so in many small ways each week and month. And we do so when we give generously to support the congregation's operating budget – the budget that enables us to have this place, our amazing Minister and talented staff who guide our steps, and the resources we use to impact the world.

As the Board of Trustees diligently plans for both the short-term and long-range future of our beloved congregation, we members and friends of St. John's have an important role: to be engaged in the discussion, demonstrate our enthusiasm, and keep the financial status strong. You do so by making your pledge of financial support for St. John's operating budget for July 2018 – June 2019 by March 18.

In his recent sermon, Vice-President David Roth called us to action: *"These are challenging times and there is no shortage of pressing issues that we feel called to take action on. It would certainly be easier for us... to find the path of least resistance among the freshly upturned soil and to sink down into the crevices that have been created by the turmoil; to retreat into our safe world. To close our blinds, turn up the volume, nod politely and go on with our business. But that is not who we are. That is not who we have ever been."*

Let's close with a few more words from Matthew Peterson: *"Whether we're singing 'Lean on Me' or holding hands after the Sunday service, we are reminded we're not alone. Through hearing others' joys and sorrows, and feeling how they bring us tears, smiles or a sigh, we see how we are a larger family."* And it is this family to which we choose to belong – and that we chose to give ourselves to. It is this community in which we invest. May your heart lead you give generously to something larger than the moment... the mission of St. John's. In support of our life-changing faith and all it brings to our lives here at St. John's, I thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Joetta Prost

Joetta Prost, 2018 Pledge Campaign Chair, joettapro@mindspring.com