

Stewardship Kickoff Service on March 1

During the Stewardship Kickoff service on 3/1, we shared our dreams for UUCM and how we believed we could achieve them. Several top dreams emerged:

- leading social action and doing good in the community
- welcoming everyone, and
- growing our congregation especially with families and children.

Do we believe we can achieve our dreams – YES!

Several top ideas emerged about how we can achieve our dreams:

- giving our money, showing up, and being committed,
- spreading the word about who we are,
- holding seminars, speakers and events that demonstrate our values - open to the community, and
- having a new minister to work with us to achieve our dreams.

Below are the responses we received at the service.

My dream is that 20 years from now, UUCM is a church that

- Makes me feel connected to this community in a loving way.
- Is full of people of all ages, worshipping and sharing together in a community that is accepting of all, no matter what race, sexual preference or ethnicity – a welcoming, warm, spiritual place.
- Is full of families and single people – young and old – all smiling and singing together.
- Does a lot of good in this region.
- Helps to feed people.
- Helps inform people about climate change.
- Welcomes everyone, including those rejected by the major religions.
- Actively supports personal growth and the search for truth.
- Provides service in and for the community.
- Feeds people, helps children, and provides family counseling.
- Teaches children the power of love and acceptance, and that no small action they take is really small at all. If they believe in something, they can do it.
- Is a home for those that feel they don't belong.
- Has grown in the number of young adults and in diversity.
- Actively participates in local and state issues.

- Challenges me to think differently about the world around me.
- Conducts enjoyable services.
- Has an accepting and positive environment to share in community and service.
- Welcomes everyone.
- People have different ideas/politics and have fun, love each other, and have great food.
- Has many families with children who come to learn how to live honestly, love the earth and all living things. A place where people of all ages learn and grow together to build a better world and to grow spiritually.
- Is a place of truth and questioning.
- Helps many people that get ignored, speaks up for our rights when needed, are brave to voice their concerns, and works for change.
- People come to in order to join others in rejoicing in the world and working together to make it better.
- Draws young people who don't want to go to other churches.
- Is doing something to fight climate change – at home in Milford and at the state level. They are changing minds and making a difference.
- Is a lively place, full of energy and love. I feel like myself there and love that everyone can feel the same themselves. Everyone gets along and discusses issues amicably. It's a place of love and acceptance.
- Shares my values and service.
- Allows me to find inner peace. I can have a true, better outlook on life and have achieved some of my goals.
- Just put on an addition because of the growth in the congregation.
- Radiates peace and is filled with the joyful noise of amazing kids and is a source of inspiring information in the fight against climate change.
- Allows people to do what they believe in personally based on a life of learning their truths. And it makes our town and the world a better place for everyone.
- Speaks universal truth, honors all people, and celebrates life in creative ways.
- Has made such a difference in our town. They help people in need and held educate us all. They are good people.
- Is a leader in social action and has made a difference in our community. Free suppers once a week, leader in seeing climate change turn around, and has lots of speakers on important topics.

- Is a joyful place that welcomes everyone as they are and challenges them to make the world better.
- Has made the community so much better and so much kinder.
- Is building an annex and a parking garage because it has too many members and has outgrown its current venue.
- Was the driving force in the “new” racial and economic equality in NH.
- NHPR is going to broadcast their Friday night lecture series on tolerance next year.
- Has so many families at UUCM every Sunday that chairs have to be set up in Emerson so that everyone has a set – EVERY SUNDAY!
- Is so active in the climate change movement. They have a wonderful choir. My kids and grandkids go to UUCM.
- Has wonderful, smart, funny people. The Sanctuary was full and their church for children bursting. My kids loved it. We’ve been going for a couple of years and are richer for it. I love how the people at UUCM walk their talk about service – soup kitchen, green sanctuary, welcoming all people – it’s what this community, town and country need. It’s what we needed as a family.
- Allows me to open up to different ways of thinking and acting. Being part of this community has helped me be a more aware person – more aware of how I can help others.
- Uses lessons from Ghandi, MLK in addition to Jesus. Cool people there too!
- has done wonderful things for this whole community! They’ve done all those dinners to support local farmers and helped so many people become self-reliant. They’re really the center of the arts and liberal thinking and so many more things. So many leaders for this town are from there!
- Has wonderful their kids who are living in a kinder, more empathetic world they have helped to create.

Things we can do to make these things happen:

- Visit with new people – talk less and listen more.
- Give more money.
- Our continued existence and persistence of our values.
- Giving our time, talent and treasure.
- Encourage active participation from kids each week and help them know that their thoughts, feelings and ideas are important.
- Continue to have these conversations and take actionable steps.
- Rev. Shayna as our minister.
- Increasing my involvement.

- Show up and be present.
- Continue to give of my time, talent and treasures.
- Spread the word about how my involvement in UUCM has given me direction and purpose.
- We chose a vibrant leader in Rev. Shayna who will work with us to make our dreams possible.
- I will increase my pledge by 10% this year.
- Commitment, faith and believing.
- Speak about UUCM to others.
- Speak my truth,
- Give money to support future maintenance.
- Stay connected.
- Meet new faces with love.
- Contribution of time and money.
- New lively, fun minister who people want to hear and who can help rally the congregation. Draw in younger families, grow, and commit.
- Invite people to come to our services.
- Offer seminars and ways to learn.
- Offer yoga, meditation and other paths to spirituality.
- Help others to understand what needs to be done to help solve our most important problems.
- Participate more in new projects like climate change and sustainable living.
- Stay open to new opportunities to learn, give, and grow.
- Start small with speakers about important social justice issues.
- Focus on important things – don't spread ourselves too thin.
- People are yearning for connection. We need to invite the community, be visible in our work and our impact. We need to announce who we are and support the church with our time, talent and money.
- Continue to be a place for all people to feel safe and cared for.
- People are searching for what we have. Increase our events, keep talking, keep serving, keep singing.
- Community outreach.
- Elect national leaders that have true values of human dignity.
- Support church with money.
- Live our values.
- Support our new minister.
- Community wide activities that bring new people into church (e.g., Granny D in April).

- Share my love for this church and its beliefs with others.
- Invite my family to come with me to services and activities.