



**SUSTAINING
OUR GARDEN**

“To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow.” —Audrey Hepburn

Spring is here, whether we see it or not. Even as the snow clings to the shady patches and resists the sun where it is piled from the plow, roots are testing the earth for warmth, water, and readiness for the magic of growing new and established life, awakening the dormant shoots and germinating seeds.

Our congregation, too, is a garden of growing things, families, programs, and energies pushing our way toward the light of a better world. Sustaining our garden is the work of all of us, in all of the ways we arrive, contributing our time, talent, and treasure to fill and be filled by one another.

Our annual Pledge Drive is the time when we collectively provide the nourishment for the soil. Our financial support of this beloved community creates the fertile ground for the big visions we have for our church - for who we are and what we want to become. During this transitional season, let us each reflect upon our commitments to engage our time and talents, to align ourselves with anti-oppressive values and practices, and to pledge our financial gift to sustain all that we do together. We use your pledge amount to create our budget and determine what dreams and commitments the congregation can fulfill each year. These commitments include:

- Worship Services & Life Cycle Rituals
- Staff Salaries & Leadership Development
- Religious Education & Youth Programming
- Pastoral Care & Spiritual Direction
- Special Events & Holiday Celebrations
- Social Justice Outreach
- Building Upkeep & Maintenance
- And much more!

As you consider your pledging capacity this year, may abundance be your guide as we strive to grow ever more vibrant as a beloved community, and may you find delight and sustenance in the opportunity to plant and nourish the growth that will feed and sustain those who come after. For all that we've accomplished together and for all that we plant for our future, thank you to each of you who journey with us.

With Hope for our Growing Garden,
Your Giving Campaign Team

P.S. Questions about your pledge? Call or email Congregational Administrator Kathy Stinnett at (218) 724-0308 or uucduluth@gmail.com. And remember - even if you're already enrolled in automatic giving you still need to submit a new pledge for fiscal year 2024-25!