



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke

2015 Grandin Road SW, Roanoke, Virginia 24015 | <http://www.uuroanoke.org>

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March 10, 2021

Dear Roanoke UUs,

Happy spring, and I hope this find you as well as can be!

Your church does amazing things.

Your church helps children learn to read. It fights for our planet. It works for racial justice. It provides a harbor and a refuge for all, because we know love is love. It feeds the hungry and shelters the homeless. It helps us search for truth and meaning. And it fills our own hearts and souls with purpose and hope...and so much more.

But the church isn't an "it." It's not a building, or a thing. It's us—all of us. Including you! As the past year has shown, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke is wherever and whenever we gather, no matter if that's in person or over the internet.

And the past year has shown us all that it's not only important to care for others—it's important to care for ourselves as well. "Self-care" is a pandemic buzzword, reminding us that hey, it's an unusual time, and it's okay to focus on our own physical and mental health.

In the same vein, our church—again, in that broadest sense of the word—requires self-care. Just as we can't neglect ourselves in the age of the coronavirus, we can't neglect our "church selves" either.

And that's why it's so important that all of us—including you—make an annual gift to your church. Our church. A gift of self-love.

This spring, we'll all be asked to pitch in and do our parts to care for one another by way of this wonderful vehicle we call UUCR. This is your faith home, and it needs care and attention, the same way your physical home does, or your body, spirit or mind.

So, I'm asking you to give, not what you'd give at the cash register at the co-op, or in response to a mailing, or to help a friend with a Facebook fundraiser. I'm asking you to give what it takes to care for ourselves. And that's more than pocket change, or the cost of a yet another pizza or restaurant meal delivered to your house. It's a meaningful gift that expresses what UUCR means to you and acknowledges what it takes to care for ourselves. And when we care for ourselves, we can better care for others—those in the interdependent web of life, of which we are all a part.

Thank you for all you do, and all you will do. I look forward to seeing our generous expressions of self-love and caring the likes of which we've never seen before!

Be well.

*David Perry*  
UUCR Board President