



*They are like trees
planted by streams of
water, which yield their
fruit in its season.*

Psalm 1: 3a

Rooted in *Love*

Rooted in Love

by Rev. Michael Neuroth

I've attended Hope UCC in Alexandria, VA for ten years. Our vision is to "Welcome, Nurture, Transform," seeking to embody Christ's love for one another and the wider community. Hope is a vibrant and warm congregation full of great people and important ministry. But that's not really why I give my time and money to Hope UCC. It is because Hope is the only congregation that my boys, ages 10 and 13, have ever known. It roots them in love. It roots them in love expressed in the public as justice. As we pass the peace around the sanctuary each week, they see every kind of person wishing them love and peace, sometimes even a too-tight hug. My boys have been taught the stories of our faith. They have learned about racism and white supremacy, how to stand up for justice and equality. My boys received cards and flowers when they lost their grandfather and kind words of encouragement in ZOOM chats over the past

year. My boys wait with anticipation each year for the summer Camp Hope theme to be announced. They know which adults they can turn to for advice and which ones tell the best sarcastic jokes. And it isn't just my kids that are being rooted in love at Hope UCC; it's me too.

I give to Hope and the wider mission of the UCC, believing that the roots of love we tend will one day spread seeds of justice and joy in the world. For me, that's a great investment in my boys, our family, and a shared future for all.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

| Annual Income | Monthly Income | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 10% |
|---------------|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 16,000 | 1,333 | 27 | 40 | 53 | 67 | 133 |
| 20,000 | 1,667 | 33 | 50 | 67 | 83 | 167 |
| 25,000 | 2,083 | 42 | 62 | 83 | 104 | 208 |
| 30,000 | 2,500 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 125 | 250 |
| 35,000 | 2,917 | 58 | 88 | 117 | 146 | 292 |
| 40,000 | 3,333 | 67 | 100 | 133 | 167 | 333 |
| 45,000 | 3,750 | 75 | 113 | 150 | 188 | 375 |
| 50,000 | 4,167 | 83 | 125 | 167 | 208 | 417 |
| 60,000 | 5,000 | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 500 |
| 75,000 | 6,250 | 125 | 188 | 250 | 313 | 625 |
| 100,000 | 8,333 | 167 | 250 | 333 | 417 | 833 |
| 125,000 | 10,417 | 208 | 313 | 417 | 521 | 1042 |

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.