



Dear USNH Community,

There are so many ways to write a letter encouraging you to make a generous pledge to this remarkable congregation – traditional appeals avoiding shortfalls; idealistic words for you to “mail out that form;” hard-nosed “hair-on-fire” screeds.

But I want to highlight the wisdom of the Stewardship team focusing on the concept of “Together.” The money you contribute is, really, a small (though essential) element of the common life we are trying to forge here at USNH. We are trying to work against an emerging reality that last month's *Atlantic* cover story called *The Anti-Social Century*. People across the board have fewer friends and less social networks to rely on than ever before.

We are lonelier.

Anything we can do to strengthen this unique place, including, yes, making that pledge, gives us a chance to stand together, to find hope together, to sing and to march together – to hang around coffee hour together!

We UU's are famous for being individualists (Emerson said he would run out the back door of his house if he thought someone was coming to do him some good), and that was pretty much the case when I was a young minister. But in the last forty years I have seen a remarkable shift among us; we are so much warmer and more connected than ever before – I would happily say that we are as much “Communitarian” as Unitarian!

We are stronger together. We need each other. This place matters, and it exists to help all of us find each other. Together.

Liz and I are pledging – I hope and trust you will too.

Fondly,
Rev. Stephen