



The Spark

The Newsletter of
the Chalice Lighter
Program Committee
Winter 2023

Our previous edition of The Spark told you about big changes that make the CER Chalice Lighter Grant program more responsive to the needs of our congregations, covenanting communities, and groups of congregations, regardless of size or location and help more of them thrive. The project featured in this Fall edition is a great example of possibilities opened up by these changes.

The UU Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley in Northumberland, Pennsylvania, is an 89 member congregation in rural Central Pennsylvania that will use their \$20,000 grant to make their presence known in their community and prepare to fight climate change.

“UUCSV plans to upgrade our outdoor signage to present a welcoming presence in a rural area, and in the process publicly declare our Unitarian Universalist values. The project replaces a static outdoor sign with a programmable electronic sign to promote church activities and provide a continuous stream of social and climate justice messaging. Our location on a busy state highway allows us to reach 13,000+ commuters daily. The new electric line that will power the sign will also give us the infrastructure for future electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in a publicly accessible parking lot and solar panels on the church roof.



We have a sign in front of the building now, but it is cracked and faded, and not at all well-lit. There is very limited space to put the slide-in plastic letters to promote each week's sermon title, and no space for other messaging. In truth, it is nearly invisible to anyone traveling past at 45 miles per hour.

Our sign will be a very practical way for us to educate people about who we are and what we believe, and we believe that increasing our visibility like this will attract new visitors and new members.”

The grant made possible by your donations will provide 80% of the cost of the sign, permits and installation.

Your continued generosity keeps the spark lit. Thank you, on behalf of the CER Chalice Lighter Program Committee and staff. If your congregation has a project that could benefit from a grant, you can get further information at <https://tinyurl.com/CERchalicelighter>.