# Fundraising Auction FAQ

### What is the USSB Annual Auction?

Our annual fundraising auction is one of our favorite community events. Members and friends donate experiences, services, meals, handmade items, vacation stays, and other unique offerings. Participants bid on the items, and the proceeds help support the life and mission of our congregation.
The auction is about much more than raising money—it's also a wonderful way to connect with one another, share our talents, and build community.

In addition, the Auction Event itself is so much fun! Often members come dressed in costume concurrent with the Auction's theme, enjoy food/beverages, dancing, and live music. The event itself is free to the congregation and community's friends/family.

### Why do we have an auction?

The auction raises funds that help support our congregation's programs, worship, social justice work, music, religious exploration, and community life. It also creates opportunities for people to get to know one another through shared experiences.

### Ways to Get Involved

There are lots of ways to participate, whether you're a longtime member or attending your very first auction!

### Donate an Item or Experience

Share something you enjoy doing or something you love to make. Some popular ideas include:

- Hosting a dinner, brunch, or barbecue

- Leading a hike, bird walk, or local tour
- Teaching a class or workshop
- Offering gardening, sewing, woodworking, or tech help
- Providing pet sitting, babysitting, or home organization
- Sharing tickets to a performance or local attraction
- Donating a cabin or condo you own as a vacation rental

Don't worry if your donation seems simple—personal experiences are often the most popular auction offerings. Peruse our 2024 Auction Catalog here for inspiration and ideas!

### Bid on Items

Browse the auction catalog and bid on experiences, services, and unique items. Every bid supports our congregation while giving you the chance to enjoy something special.

### Attend Hosted Events

Many auction offerings are group events held throughout the year. Whether it's a dinner party, game night, concert outing, or wine tasting, these gatherings are one of the best ways to meet people and build friendships.

### Volunteer

Help make the auction a success by volunteering before, during, or after the event. Volunteers assist with:

- Soliciting donations
- Database
- Decorating and setting up
- Registration
- Hospitality and refreshments

Volunteering is one of the quickest ways to get to know members of the congregation. You can indicate your volunteer interest here: https://form.jotform.com/262178436212051

### I'm new. Can I donate something?

Absolutely! New members often contribute some of the most creative offerings. Your donation doesn't have to be expensive or elaborate. Sharing a hobby, skill, meal, or favorite activity is a wonderful way to meet people.

### What if I don't know anyone yet?

The auction is one of the easiest ways to get acquainted. Winning a dinner, joining a group outing, volunteering, or attending an auction event gives you a chance to connect with people in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Many lasting friendships begin through auction events.

### How does bidding work?

Participants browse the auction catalog and place bids on the items they would like to win during Auction night. At the end of the auction, the highest eligible bid(s) win. Details about bidding, payment, and item pickup will be shared in the Auction catalog before the auction opens.

### When do the events happen?

Many auction items are scheduled throughout the year. These gatherings—such as dinners, game nights, hikes, workshops, and outings—continue long after the auction event ends and are an important part of our congregation's community life.

### Can friends or family participate?

Absolutely! Many auction events welcome guests. Sharing an event with friends or family is a wonderful way to introduce others to our congregation.

### What do I wear?

Come as you are! Many people choose to dress up for the auction, but costumes are completely optional and not required. If you'd like to join in the fun, this year's theme is "Coat of Many Colors: A Tribute to Dolly." Think colorful, sparkly, country, and a little bit glamorous! Easy costume ideas include a colorful shirt or jacket, rhinestones or sequins, boots, big hair, a fun blonde wig, or your own interpretation of a "coat of many colors." Whether you go all-out Dolly or simply add a little sparkle, we'd love to see your creativity!