

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PRINCETON

Skylights newsletter



Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

We continue to live-stream Sunday services on YouTube Live and Zoom at 9:00 a.m., and gather for in-person worship service in Channing Hall at 10:30. Please see Page 5, and keep an eye on your email, as well as www.uuprinceton.org for updates.

November 7, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall



(Daylight Saving Time Ends)
The Gift of Presence

Sometimes just being there is all we can offer. And often, that is enough. Let's explore our monthly spiritual theme of *Presence* by considering how we build a more sacred world by being there for neighbor, stranger, and friend.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: Joseph Anzek
Music: Vocal Trio; Courtney Orlando, piano; Marjorie Herman

November 14, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall
Finding Joy

We are entering the season of "joy" in the next few weeks, but joy can be hard to come by. As we prepare for another holiday season in challenging times, how can we think about joy and (re)kindle it in ourselves.

Worship Leader: Patricia Hennigan, Ministerial Intern
Worship Associate: Aparna Zama
Music: String Quartet; Victoria Chow, piano; Marjorie Herman

November 21, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall
Gather and Give in Gratitude!

Join us for our annual multigenerational *Ingathering* service where we stock the food pantry of Arm in Arm! Bring your contribution of non-perishable goods to worship and stay for a family friendly Thanksgiving service. And after the service, stick around to help sort the food, bring a lunch and eat with friends, and enjoy some fellowship! See elsewhere in Skylights for more information.

Worship Leaders: Revs. Bill Neely & Jennifer Kelleher
Worship Associate: Lauren Foss
Music: Vocal Trio; Courtney Orlando, piano

November 28, 2021 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall
A Whole and Holy Light

The story begins with divine light being divided into sacred vessels, some of which break, causing the light to disperse. In the chaos of the dispersal, evil comes into being, but the good news is that all this can be repaired, by us. On this first day of Hanukkah, let us consider anew the ancient concept of *Tikkun Olan*, often translated as "repair the world" and embrace our roles as those who repair.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely Worship Associate: Courtney Orlando
Music: TBA; Victoria Chow, piano; Marjorie Herman

The Good News

Reverend Bill Neely

In 1967, UU Princeton founded *Leadership Leaves (LL)*, a collaborative sabbatical support program for UU congregations in New Jersey. Back then, some visionaries in our congregation saw an opportunity for congregations to work together and strengthen one another's sabbatical programs, and LL continues to do that today. Each enrolled congregation has two members on the LL Council (our representatives are Kathy Fedorko and Lauren Foss, and Lauren is currently the President of the Council) and together, we serve and promote one another's sabbatical programs.

The Council works with the Unitarian Universalist Association's recommendation that ministers take regular sabbaticals wherein we step completely away from the ministries of the congregation to focus on growth, clarity, and renewal. The thought is that these sabbaticals help to recharge and focus our ministries, understand anew our Calls to ministry, and avoid the widespread occurrence of clergy burnout. These days, sabbaticals typically happen in the 5-6 year range of a minister's service to a congregation, and the sabbatical length is one month per year served.

Sabbaticals also create a sense of renewal and revitalization within the congregation. They can be stressful and uncertain to think about and plan for, but in the end, sabbaticals have proven to be good for everyone. The congregation ends up with a renewed sense of purpose and confidence, and the shared ministries of the congregation are strengthened for years to come. I know that was the case with us five years ago, when I last took a sabbatical.

And indeed, that stretch of time means that it's time for sabbatical #2. For those who were here five years ago, this sabbatical will feel very much like the last one. I'll begin my sabbatical on Christmas Day, 2021, and will be back in the office on April 12, 2022. During that time I'll be out of touch with the congregation, but all the essentials will be covered by dedicated lay leaders and our staff. Sara Oderwald will connect with our Board President Lauren Foss around matters relating to the Executive Team, and Rev. Jennifer will continue to lead our pastoral ministries and lifespan faith development. Lauren and the Board will continue their excellent and visionary leadership of the congregation, and our many ministries will keep on serving the world and connecting us to one another as they always do.

Some larger decisions may need to be put on hold until I return, but our daily, sacred congregational life of hope, love, justice, and joy will keep right on going. And as that happens, it's helpful to be extra patient and very flexible during sabbaticals, particularly with those who are offering new kinds of leadership in unfamiliar ways. Sabbaticals are a great time to actively practice

expressing our gratitude for one another, supporting one another, and pitching in to help one another.

Worship is always a big focus of sabbatical planning, so I'm pleased to let you know that our very own Pauline Nijander will take on the temporary staffing position of Sabbatical Worship Coordinator during that period. She'll coordinate the Zoom and in-person services, which will include speakers from our own congregation, the community, and other UU ministers in the state as part of the *Leadership Leaves* program. Thank you Pauline! Overall, we're in great shape for what's to come.

And as was the case for me five years ago, there is a big part of me that isn't eager to be away from you for this long. I love being a minister, and being your parish minister, and working with our staff, and sharing in ministries with our leaders. And after the year+ we've had, I'm finding our re-entry to in-person congregational life complex and challenging in good, invigorating ways. And yet I know the last sabbatical was good for us both, and I've seen so many exceptional colleagues of many faiths burnout by not taking their sabbaticals, or by taking them too late, that I know this is what's best. The collective wisdom is definitely right about this one – sabbaticals are healthy, renewing, and essential.

So come Christmas Eve we'll worship together, and then I'll miss you for a little while. But I'll also be back, and will be eager to re-connect and think about the future together. We've done important things, and many more await, and after a breather of clarity and renewal, we'll dive right back into sharing the hope, love, justice, and joy of our congregation, together.

Warmly,
Rev. Bill



Welcome New Members!

Deana Graffeo Weeks
Michael Weeks

November Spiritual Theme – Presence

By Chalice Circle Facilitators

Our Monthly Spiritual Themes guide our Chalice Circles, which are small, intentional groups of members and friends that gather for spiritual enrichment through personal sharing. For more information on Chalice Circles, please email Linda Benson at chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org. Our Chalice Circle thoughts and questions around the theme of *Presence* this month are:

One of the best feelings in the world is knowing your presence and absence both mean something to someone.

— Anonymous

Who has helped you feel your presence and absence are important to them? Who surprised you by acknowledging it to you?

“Stage presence is the essence of a (performer’s) being that is projected when they expose themselves, connecting with the audience, making them feel something. It’s also what truly separates artists from technicians... My idea of “presence” is an authentic sense of self, and projection is the outward manifestation of it.” — Teagan Lowe

The late Colin Powell could be described as someone with a dignified or imposing nature. When you think of this kind of presence, who else comes to mind? Why? Has it ever been you?

“[If we speak of the] subject “I,” and an object “Presence” this is a deluded experience. The student has missed the point. When we fully realize the all-consuming nature of Presence, we release our sense of self and all its encumbrances. This is the point of liberation: there is only Presence, the oneness. Thus, the actual experience might be stated, “Presence is all there is,” or, “This is It.” — Rabbi David Copper

How does a capital P affect your understanding of Presence? What would you name it--Divine Presence, the Universe, Inner Light, God, Allah, Higher Power, the Force?

Have you ever become aware of an invisible presence? Did you know who/what it was? Was it welcome or ominous?

“In order for something to be handed over a hand must extend and a hand must receive. We must both be here in this world in this life in this place indicating the presence of.” — Claudia Rankine

How have you experienced presence when you have been alone? How would you describe that? Are other ‘presences’ present?



Join us! Thanksgiving Food Drive for our Neighbors: UU Princeton Ingathering 2021

Our Annual Ingathering is a little different this year (like so many things in 2020-21!) Come join the fun and make a difference in our neighbor’s lives on **Sunday November 21, 11:30 am to ~1 pm** as we use our ‘helping hands and loving hearts’ to assist our neighbors in need by collecting food donations at UUCP. If you feel comfortable, bring your bag lunch and stay for a Fellowship visit! You can also bring your groceries when you come to the UUCP services on Sunday Nov 7 or 14, if the Nov 21 time slot doesn’t fit your schedule. If none of these time slots work for you, please contact Louise Senior to arrange an alternative appointment: socialjusticeuucp@gmail.com or DrLSenior@gmail.com. The need is great – there are more visits than ever before to the Arm in Arm pantry. **Please see flyer with the list of most-wanted food donations on Page 8, or on the website www.uuprinceton.org**

I’d like to help more! What can I do? If you’d like to help out at one of the Trenton pantries, they *always* would appreciate it! Contact Volunteer Coordinator and Hanover Street Pantry Manager Shariq Marshall at shariqm@arminarm.org to find out how you can help (he’s a great guy!). Helpers all work distanced and masked, and some help is also needed outside during food distributions.

Questions? Contact Louise Senior, our congregation’s Arm in Arm coordinator, at DrLSenior@gmail.com or call/text her 609 240 6543.

Children and Youth Faith Development



Beloveds -

Our 2021-2022 virtual children and youth gatherings are well underway! We are incredibly grateful to our 12 adult leaders who are sharing their enthusiasm and engaging our children and youth in-person and on-line. We are also grateful to the 9 adult helpers who have supported our gatherings and hope *you will consider spending one or more Sundays this year learning with our children*. Thus far we completed our class covenants, learned about the 8th UU Principle, reflected on the spirituality of nature while hiking on the trails adjacent to our property, thought deeply about supporting one another in times we are mad or sad, shared what social justice issues are important to us, and through all of this - began to get to know one another better.

You may join in the learning and fun at any time. Registration in our children and youth faith development program is free and can be completed here: <http://www.uuprinceton.org/faithdev/register-re/>

OUR NOVEMBER CALENDAR

| SUNDAY | In Person: Pre-K-Grade 7 at 10:30am | On Zoom | 8th/9th OWL in person at 10:30am |
|--------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Nov 7 | Outdoor Gatherings: Learning about our Memorial Garden | K-Grade 5: Gathering today at 1pm | Meeting in Room 1 |
| Nov 14 | Outdoor Gatherings: Our ideas about the Divine/God | K-Grade 5: Gathering today at 1pm | Meeting in Room 1 |
| Nov 21 | All Ages worship service "Gather & Give" | All Ages worship service "Gather & Give" at 9:15am | Meeting in Room 1 |
| Nov 28 | All welcome in worship | All welcome in worship | No class. |

Reminders:

- links for our Zoom gatherings are sent out Sunday mornings to registered families
- outdoor gatherings will only be cancelled if it is pouring/storming, please dress appropriately for the day's weather

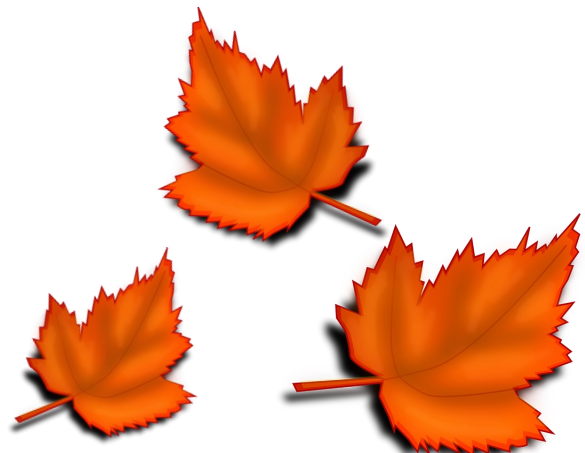
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The high school youth group will meet in-person again on an upcoming weeknight from 5:30pm-7:00pm. Please stay tuned to email for dates. We also use Discord to share reminders or information about upcoming events directly with our teens, and sometimes meet virtually on our private Discord server. Please contact jennifer@uuprinceton.org for the log-in information.

CRAFT-A-CHALICE: Thursday, November 4, 7-9pm

For this year's fellowship auction, I am offering a session to create a UU chalice to use at home or give as a gift. For a donation of \$15 to UU Princeton, you are welcome to join us! Choice of designs including glitzy and stained glass. All materials and tools provided. Meet to craft together, either via Zoom or in person at the church. Date and Time Thursday, 11/4/2021, 7 - 9 pm. Email me at jennifer@uuprinceton.org to take part.

With abiding love, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher, Assistant Minister, Jennifer@UUPrinceton.org



Gracenotes

News of Note

Our Adult Choir is Off and Running (Singing)

On October 17, the Adult Choir participated in an Interfaith Concert at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Although we've sung for many musical gatherings over the years, this is the first one that included performances of other faiths, NINE in all. This was truly thrilling, and we will continue to seek out opportunities like this one.

Singing in the choir has been an uplifting experience for many in our congregation. We sing music of all styles, periods, and faiths. You're welcome to come out any Wednesday evening at 7:30pm to see if singing in the choir might be for you. For more info, contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net.

Our Bell Choir Has Begun

Our Handbell Choir made its Fall debut on October 10 under the direction of Joelle Piercy. Our ringers are hard at work in the Founders Room every Thursday evening.

If interested in joining, contact Joelle at joellepiercy@gmail.com.

Newcomers' Events

The Mission of the UU Princeton Membership Ministry is that *all who enter feel welcome, known, and loved. Newcomers experience personal and congregational connections that lead them to become committed UUs and members of our congregation.*

We hope to resume our newcomers' events soon.

If you have any questions about our events, membership or our congregation, please email us at membership@uuprinceton.org. We look forward to getting to know you better.



Music Ministry Mission Statement

To provide, through the power of music, a dynamic ministry that will inspire transcendent personal experiences, draw the congregation into greater kinship, and bring inspiration to the wider community.



The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

JOIN US FOR LIVE-STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

at 9:00 a.m.

**In-Person service at 10:30 a.m. in
Channing Hall**

We hope you'll join us for our live-stream worship service on Sunday mornings, at 9:00 a.m. if you are unable to join us in Channing Hall at 10:30 a.m. There are two ways for us to join together at 9:00:

View via Zoom:

Every Sunday morning we will send an e-mail message with the access information.

View via YouTube Live

<https://www.youtube.com/user/uuprinceton>

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton Relational Covenant

Our covenant affirms a commitment to build loving, healthy, and trusting relationships within our congregation.

We make these promises in order to love better, relate more compassionately, and feel the power of our human connections.

Our Promises:

- ❖ We warmly welcome all.
- ❖ We speak with honesty, respect, and compassion.
- ❖ We listen attentively.
- ❖ We express gratitude for the service of others.
- ❖ We honor and support one another in our spiritual journeys and in times of joy, need, and struggle.
- ❖ We embrace our diversity and the opportunity to share our different perspectives.
- ❖ We address our disagreements directly and openly, and see conflict through to an authentic resolution.
- ❖ We serve our spiritual community with generosity and joy.
- ❖ We strive to keep these promises, but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others, and begin again in love.

INTERFAITH SERVICE AND CONFERENCE FOR PEACE

ANNUAL PEACE CONFERENCE, of which our congregation is a co-sponsor, will be on **Sunday, November 14 from 2:30 to 4:00 PM on ZOOM**. Ambassador Mousavian of the Princeton University Program for Global Security will speak on the Iranian Nuclear Agreement and efforts to revive it. Sister Simone Campbell of Nuns on the Bus will also speak in addition to preaching at the 11:00 AM in-person Interfaith Service for Peace at the University Chapel. Registration is required for the conference at peacecoalition.org, under News and Events. ~Carol Allen

Joys and Sorrows

Pastoral Associates is a group of trained and caring members of the congregation that offers support and assistance to congregants facing difficulties, crises, or life transitions. Rev. Jennifer Kelleher (jennifer@uuprinceton.org) is the primary support for Pastoral Associates and our Prayer Circle. You are always welcome to reach out directly to Rev. Jennifer and/or Rev. Bill Neely (bill@uuprinceton.org) for pastoral care and support in times of difficulty and times of celebration.

To help nurture a beloved community here in this congregation, please remember to share significant events in members' lives with the Pastoral Associates, who are charged with extending the pastoral ministry. This column is a place to inform the larger community of major events in people's lives. Sometimes people want to have their news shared; sometimes privacy and confidentiality prevail. Items for this column should be sent to pa@uuprinceton.org. All items will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associate leadership team before publishing (Lauren Foss, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher, and Rev. Bill Neely).

The **Tomlinsons** have some news to share. The joyful part is the birth of a great grandson. Larkin Hikade was born September 12, in Portland, ME, to their granddaughter, Annika, and her husband Andrew.

More sobering is that Harry is suffering the effects of NPH (Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus) and is hoping to have surgery to relieve it.

While visiting southern Indiana last month, **Amanda & Bill Gillum** were delighted to spend an afternoon reconnecting with **Rev. Forrest Gilmore**, now Executive Director of Beacon, a



large nonprofit organization based in Bloomington. Founded as the Shalom Center in 2000, Beacon has evolved into a major resource for people experiencing extreme poverty, operating 24/7 at four locations, with over 50 staff. Along our walk to the town square for lunch, Forrest was greeted by several folks. It was wonderful to see Forrest happy, thriving, and making a real difference in his community. He sends his greetings and best wishes to UU Princeton!

The UU Princeton Prayer Circle

If you have any prayer requests, for yourself or anyone who needs to be held in love and compassion, please email PrayerCircle@UUPrinceton.org. Your request will be sent to members of our Prayer Circle Team who will include your request in weekly prayers. And if you'd like to be a part of our Prayer Circle Team, please email the same address to be included. All styles of prayer are welcome.

Adult Faith Development & Fellowship

ZOOM Programs for Adults

All are welcome!

Please check E-Happenings and/or your email for Zoom log-ins.

Healing the Heart of Democracy

Tuesdays, Nov. 2, 9, and 16, 6 – 6:45 p.m.

With Parker Palmer's book by this name as our guide, let us explore democracy as a value and practice, in our hearts and in society. How might we work toward healing what has clearly become ill? No prior reading necessary, and all are welcome!

Short Story Hour, Poetry Reading, The Wisdom of ... Series, and More!

Fridays, Nov. 5, 12, and 19, 2 - 3 p.m.

Keep an eye on E-Happenings and your email for our exact schedule of Friday afternoon programs. All are welcome!

Women's Alliance

Virtual Lunch and Program – Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Please join us at noon for an hour of virtual lunch and socializing, then at 1:00 p.m. for **Dave Teich** with **"In His Image: Art Ministry."** What is Art Ministry? Graphic communication is emerging as an essential element of worship services. Mr. Teich is a member of a small group of First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown congregants who conceptualize, design and execute works of visual, graphic and decorative art that enhances the quality of worship, communication and even healing within the church through direct involvement in creating the worship environment. Art Ministry serves a need for more inclusive, engaging and contemporary worship activity and appeals to a broader and younger demographic. He will utilize slides of the installations, as well as the materials and methods used for large scale liturgical installation work. Group members will talk about the process of development from design to execution and will welcome questions afterward.

For information about how to connect on Zoom, check e-Happenings in mid-November or contact Lisa Roche (see contact information below). No reservation is needed and all congregants and guests are welcome!

About Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance promotes friendship and kindness, inspires learning and serves the congregation and greater community. We organize monthly lunches with timely programs of general interest, assist bereaved families with receptions following memorial services and raise funds to support organizations that serve women and children. Anyone who supports what we do and wishes to participate in our activities may become a member of the Women's Alliance upon

payment of annual dues of \$10. To be placed on our e-mail list for information about our lunches and other activities, to obtain more information about Women's Alliance or to become a member please contact Lisa Roche, President, at (609) 403-8148 or rochebarbiero@gmail.com.

Note: The Women's Alliance Board has decided to continue our monthly lunches virtually on Zoom at least through the remainder of 2021. The **December 16th** lunch will include a program about **"Holiday Traditions."**

Great Books Reading Circle

Every other month on the second Sunday at 12:30

Books are chosen from the New York Times/PBS News **Now Read This** book discussion list (with one exception this year). We'll plan to continue our meetings on Zoom, though that may change, TBD. Here is the upcoming schedule along with our books, with selections alternating between fiction and nonfiction. Happy reading!

(Contact peggy.matthews@gmail.com if you have questions.)

November 14, 2021 Inheritance, Dani Shapiro

January 9, 2022 Conversations with Friends,

Sally Rooney

March 13, 2022 The Moth and the Mountain, Ed Caesar*

May 15, 2022 Beijing Payback, Daniel Nieh (3rd Sunday)

*Not selected from the *Now Read This* list

Princeton Eats Plants

contact Vicky Campbell

Buddhist Meditation Group

contact Michele Ochsner

Yoga for health, well-being, and peace of mind

Gentle Yoga contact Sharon Savage.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga contact Lauren Foss

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) Evergreen Chapter meets monthly and quarterly.

Contact Jennifer Santos jsantoscnm@verizon.net

All are invited to join UUCP's Evergreen chapter of CUUPS for two upcoming events. Gatherings are currently held outdoors in the area near the Memorial Garden, with plans to use the John Murray room if the weather is not cooperative. Please bring a face covering and a small snack for after the ritual.

If you are planning the year, the following are the dates for Full Moon Circles in the upcoming church year: Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 14, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 13, Jun 17

UUCP partners with Arm in Arm for our Annual INGATHERING FOOD DRIVE!

UUCP In-Gathering Contact is Louise Senior

Donate Food Nov 7, Nov 14, and/or come help us sort it on Sunday Nov 21 after the service!

RSVP to Louise at <drisenior@gmail.com>

ArmInArm

better together 

Formerly the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County

Here are suggested items, with our greatest need for the first three. No glass containers, please.

- Canned *low-sodium* vegetables
- Canned *low-fructose* fruit
- Canned tuna, salmon, chicken, or chili
- 1 lb. dried beans
- 2 lbs. rice
- Canned potatoes
- 1-2 lbs. pasta
- Cold cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Hot Cereal
- Shelf-stable milk
- Herbs & spices (plastic containers)
- Honey (plastic container)
- Olive and canola oil (plastic container)

*Due back
by Sunday
Nov 21!*

We help neighbors in need achieve stability through:

- Hunger prevention, nutrition education, & health screenings
- Housing stability & homelessness prevention
- Workforce development & employment readiness

TRENTON

123 E. Hanover St. 08608

48 Hudson Street 08609

PRINCETON

In Nassau Presbyterian Church

61 Nassau St. 08542

Learn more:



609-396-9355

info@arminarm.org

www.arminarm.org

We accept fresh produce, too! Best are items that last a long time -- like citrus fruits, winter squash, potatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, etc.

Thank you for filling our shelves for our neighbors in need.

Arm In Arm, formerly the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit community organization with no political mission. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual identity, age, ethnicity, race, religious status, or national origin.



Our UUCP Social Justice Ministry is a group of shared ‘sub-ministries’ that assist those in need, educate about injustice, and work towards systemic change to create a more just and beloved society. General requests and inquiries about the UUCP Justice

Ministry can be sent to socialjustice@uuprinceton.org.

The six sub-ministries and their UUCP contacts are (alphabetically):

Caring for Our Neighbors – organizes projects that provide hands on help to address immediate, local, concrete needs (Louise Senior, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘Caring for Neighbors’ in subject line)

Immigration and Sanctuary Task Force – assists immigrants, refugees and sanctuary-seekers (Michele Ochsner, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘Immigration Task Force’ in the subject line)

Ministry for the Earth – acts to preserve earth’s resources at UUCP and among individuals (Ray Nichols, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘Ministry for the Earth’ in the subject line)

Public Action Issues – promotes advocacy actions, through support of UU Faith Action, legislative actions, and other (Eileen Bird for UU Faith Action, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org, please put ‘UU Faith Action’ in the subject line)

Racial Justice Task Force – conducts anti-racism work inside and outside of UUCP (Megan Innes, Sharon Copeland and Kevin Trayner, racialjustice@uuprinceton.org)

and **Rainbow Ministry** – welcomes LGBTQIA persons at UUCP and advocates outside of UUCP (China Palena and Judy Vee, lgbtq@uuprinceton.org)

The Spring/Fall Sale and Social Justice Outreach Grants are related, but not considered a subset of any of the SJM sub-ministries.

Rainbow Ministry

Join us on **November 20th** for our Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) service which is a memorial to people who lost their lives this past year as a result of transphobic violence. This service will move all who join us. So please join us. See details and zoom link below:

UU Princeton TDOR 2021 Service

Time: Nov 20, 2021 6:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89692370970?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89692370970?pwd=MWNnY0pWVDJ0VkZnSEJuY2ViT3hnUT09)

[pwd=MWNnY0pWVDJ0VkZnSEJuY2ViT3hnUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89692370970?pwd=MWNnY0pWVDJ0VkZnSEJuY2ViT3hnUT09)

Meeting ID: 896 9237 0970

Passcode: 823690

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89692370970# US (Washington DC)

~China Palena

UU Faith Action NJ (UUFA) Issues Conference

Approximately 100 UU social justice advocates gathered virtually on Saturday, Oct. 16 to discuss the issues that UUFA and the various task forces will focus on in the year to come. It was a great meeting and a few of the high points are given below. One of the highlights was the presentation by the Faith Action Inclusivity Representatives (FAIR) youth leaders and members who are preparing for in-school assemblies featuring FAIR youth discussing a history of racism and antiracism activism in NJ. It was inspiring to hear the plans of this group and their personal experiences. This was followed by motivating remarks from the co-chairs of the Reparations Task Force. Rev. Rob Gregson then gave a warm introduction to the Keynote Speaker, State Senator Loretta Weinberg. A state leader on women’s rights, progressive causes, and the main senate driver behind marriage equality for gays and lesbians, Senator Weinberg will retire as one of the most consequential state elected officials of the millennium. Her interesting talk covered some of the many progressive issues that she fought for over the years. Subsequent breakout sessions allowed attendees to join one of the task forces of interest to them for more in-depth discussion of the issues.

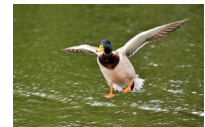
Musical interludes during the meeting kept attendees alert and moving. If you missed the conference this year, be sure and watch for it in 2022.

~Eileen Bird

Justice Takes Flight in the ‘Lame Duck’

by Emily Parker. Administrator and Communications Coordinator UU Faith Action NJ

Slightly modified for *Skylights* by Eileen Bird, UUFA Liaison



The New Jersey legislative cycle is a two-year process. This year is an election year, which means that the current legislative cycle will come to an end in early January. Any pending legislation that is not passed and signed into law within the current cycle must start over from the very beginning in the new legislature.

The time between the end of the November election and the start of the next legislative session in January is often referred to as the “lame duck” session. Traditionally, this is a time when bills that some lawmakers are hesitant to consider before an election, have an opportunity to move forward. There are a number of such bills with a social justice impact that our Task Forces have been working to pass.

All of our Task Forces anticipate the lame duck session to be a make-or-break window for progress on key legislation.

That makes this a strategically important time to mobilize and advocate in this window of opportunity. Please respond to any Action Alerts that you receive during this time to support key legislation.

UU History

Our Church, the UUA, and a Bowl of
Oatmeal - Part II
By Carl Haag

A SILVER THREAD RUNS THROUGH ALL

Did the same mysterious induction process also work for me at a higher UU level — i.e., did other UUs think I should take on Metro District and even high UUA positions? Yes! Why? I have no idea? Carl

* I did a stint on the UU Metro District Board to fill in for a member who had left and in a couple years I ended up becoming President.

- Two other particularly gratifying involvements:
- being the psychologist on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the group that certifies Ministers, with both the Committee Members and the Candidates being exceptional individuals, and being the UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative for 8 years. The MSR is the person who helps Search Committees do their job--Edward Frost did it before me and Doug Rhodes did it after me--think about it, of the 50 churches in our District, UUCP members held this position for 24 years.

An awesome event occurred when I rejoined the Murray Grove Board: a difficult decision had to be faced. Murray Grove had run out of operating money and it looked like it had to be closed and turned over to the UUA. I became convinced of this because I had been on a joint Metro / Priestly committee that gave MG 5 years to become financially stable. So, I was part of the slim majority that felt The Grove had failed and thus should be closed.

Within two months, a special MG Board meeting was held. I voted to close it again but the vote, by another slim majority, was to keep it open. The President and a Vice President immediately resigned, I became briefly the dazzled President for an hour..

We adjourned for lunch, got a new President and a new VP, Ray Nichols, who also was instrumental in suggesting what eventually was a splendid resolution: selling 200 acres of MG land to the Fish and Wildlife Service. This better protected the precious land and provided enough money to keep Murray Grove operating. I became involved as the ringmaster of that long process, and it was one of the proudest achievements in my life. And I learned my analytic approach to issues could turn out negative and people with impossible dreams could realize them.

I understand now my debt to so many people that allowed me to grow into new experiences. These are the threads that will carry us into the conclusion of this epic tale.

The End is in Sight - Carol and I were returning home from a visit with her parents in Charleston, SC on a curious route to see some places new to us. After a long drive, we finally reached Western North Carolina and to our great surprise Transylvania County, which

is called the "Land of Waterfalls" due to the 250 waterfalls located through the area. Ah yes, a silver thread from our Partner Church in Transylvania.

I told Carol, "I think we are close to The Mountain." That is the UU Retreat Center and Learning Center at 4200 feet.

Besides Murray Grove, we had also gone to Star Island when daughter Cindy was 6 months old, and we lost our identity, becoming known as "Cindy's parents." We went to All Star One Family Conference in July because most UCP members went to it and also ran it often. We have been to other conferences there about every 6 years, at first with our children and then on our own.

We had also camped with both Cindy and Ken at Ferry Beach in Maine. A UU RE Professional from Maryland was camping there too and played her guitar and sang a number of songs. It was the first time I had heard "Come Sing a Song with Me" and its haunting music and message has stayed with me ever since. Of all of the other UU Conference Centers, we most wanted to go to the Mountain.

I found the road to the entrance, and we very carefully drove slowly up the two-way, one lane road, which was quite narrow and had sharp curves. Thankfully, no one drove down the road so we made it to the top safely, parked near the office, and sighed deeply in relief.

We went in and asked if by any chance they had any space for us for one night. They did and welcomed us, saying they had one Cabin left, and added that the rest of the site was occupied by one church group — from your NY Metro District.

Of course I asked the name of the church we would be with and they said "Shelter Rock." I had been gone from Metro activities for some years and I had never heard of the church. It was most embarrassing until I learned it had been the North Shore Church. They had recently purchased the only large estate left on Long Island and built a very expensive church on their new campus.

We met the Shelter Rock folks before dinner, knew the minister and his wife, and some of the people, so we fitted in with them most comfortably. They gave us a tour of the place. Dinner was delicious, and we sat with them and chatted afterwards around the fire-pit. Now we know the silver thread came up the twisty road and there was a cabin for us, so the final connection could be made.

It had gotten quite chilly as we walked back to our cabin, which like others had a porch along the camp circumference facing the valley and other hills. The room was simple, rustic, and comfortable — but we probably slept under two blankets.

In the morning there was a mist over the valley, and we dressed warmly to walk over to their 100 person dining

(UU History continued on page 11)

(UU History continued from page 10)

hall for breakfast. There was a long central food area with rails for the trays down both sides. Carol and I picked up fruit juice and other tempting breakfast items and both put steaming hot oatmeal in our bowls.

At the end of the counter was a larger than life red-haired chef. He was standing by two large tubs of ice cream and asked us if we wanted some on our cereal. That was a strange offer to me. I had never heard of that combination, and it was a cold morning but I said "sure."

We walked back to a table beyond the food line. I sat at the end of the table where I could watch what other people did. I spotted a woman without a tray going along the tables talking with people as she moved along. Ours was the last table and she came over to where I was sitting, bent over, and whispered, "On the first morning I always count to see how many people are having ice cream on their oatmeal, so I know what kind of a week we are going to have." Her name was Carolyn McDade, and she was on the staff. Of course you know her too.

Carolyn McDade [1935] is the musician who has three pieces of music in our Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal: the music in Hymn 121 "We'll Build a Land," the words and music for "Hymn 123 "Spirit of Life" and Hymn 346 "Come Sing a Song with Me." The Silver Thread takes me back to the campground at Ferry Beach with that haunting memory of "a rose in the winter time !"

The End of this Silver Interconnected Thread Tale. Carl

Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

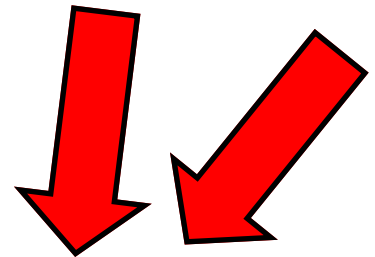
*In our open, welcoming
community we live our message
of hope, love, justice, and joy.*

*Approved at the 6/3/2012
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Princeton Annual Meeting*

**HATE HAS NO
HOME HERE.**

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

نفرت کے لئے یہاں کوئی گھر نہیں ہے
الکرہ لیس له بیت هنا



Holiday Greens Needed by Dec. 17!



The Hanging of the Greens Service is set for **Sunday, December 19**. One of the highlights of the congregational year, this festive service decorates our worship space for the holidays and involves all of us in joy and celebration. That means that we need to collect greens the week before. If you can manage to donate a bundle or two of greens, and pinecones if you have them, we'd have enough to go around Channing Hall, bringing holiday joy to our worship and recognizing the participation and involvement of so many of us. So plan to bring your pines and your spruces, your firs and your cedars to our congregation for the Hanging of the Greens! You can **drop off your greens from Sunday, December 12th through Friday,**

December 17th. Please leave them outside at the lower-level entrance to the Children's Faith Development wing, at the end of the lower parking lot.

Make it a joyous Hanging of the Greens service! Start your holidays off with a snip and a trip for our festive service.

Many thanks! And don't forget to attend the very special Hanging of the Greens Service on **December 19!** Contact **Bob Harris**, Worship Associate Coordinator, at rharris1491@gmail.com or call 609.466.0194.



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Skylights

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
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**Meeting with the Ministers**

Rev. Bill and/or Rev. Jennifer are happy to meet with you individually at church, for lunch, over coffee, etc., at a time that works for everyone. Please email either of them to make an appointment.
609-924-1604, ext. 111 (Rev. Bill), or ext. 118 (Rev. Jennifer)

In the event of emergencies needing the attention of a minister, please contact Rev. Bill by phone or email first. If necessary, then contact Lauren Foss, President of the Board of Trustees, at president@uuprinceton.org

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Please submit your article as an attachment in our preferred font, Times New Roman, 11 pt. Describe your submission in the subject line of your e-mail and tell us under which section it belongs.

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