

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 6, and keep an eye on your email, as well as www.uuprinceton.org for updates.

March 6, 2022 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall *The World of Sex Workers*

“Sex work is work” is a statement and a movement that is supported by people around the United States, including Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. The movement advocates for legalizing the world’s oldest profession in order to eliminate a host of social issues, including exploitation of women, child sex trafficking, and AIDS. Join the UU Princeton Rainbow Ministry on this Sunday as we look into a way that we can save the lives of trans people by legalizing prostitution.

Worship Leaders: Judy Vee and the UU Princeton Rainbow Ministry

Worship Associate: Bob Harris

Music: Bell Choir; Courtney Orlando, piano; Marjorie Herman

March 13, 2022 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall *(Daylight Saving Time Begins)* *Grounding for the Religious Left*



American culture for decades has too easily assumed that if one is religious one must also be right wing politically. And though some religious institutions do trend strongly towards right wing theology, study after study shows that political views vary widely among the wide diversity of America's faithful. It is time for liberals to raise their voices about how our values are grounded firmly in traditional teachings of the world's religions. Using the work of Walter Rauschenbusch, founder of the "Social Gospel," Rev Scott will lead us on a journey to show how the Bible itself is often our firmest grounding. The Right Wing is proved wrong, yet again. Join us for fun and inspiration on this exciting topic!

Rev. Michael visits as part of Leadership Leaves, a collaborative statewide Unitarian Universalist sabbatical support program.

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael, Co-Minister and Director of Facility Management, UU Montclair

Worship Associate: Darci Erickson

Music: Soloists TBA; Victoria Chow, piano; Marjorie Herman

March 20, 2022 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall *Celebration Sunday*

This is the Sunday we celebrate and renew our commitments to one another, our UUCP congregation and our mission to bring Hope, Love, Justice and Joy to our world. It is about time, as we have all struggled with the pandemic, to reconnect with each other and take the actions needed to bring our mission to life. With a tree and flowers, candles music and songs we will celebrate the renewal of our community.

Worship Leader: Rev. Carol S. Haag

Worship Associate: Lauren Foss

Music: Adult Choir; Victoria Chow, piano; Marjorie Herman

March 27, 2022 at 9:00 (Zoom/YouTube Live) and 10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall *Worthy Now*

The UU Church of the Larger Fellowship offers a penpal program for incarcerated UUs (many of whom became UUs while incarcerated). Worthy Now invites people on both sides of prison walls into beloved community. As UUs, we declare that all persons are worthy of love, respect, and support — not at some

The Good News**Reverend Bill Neely**

(Rev. Bill Neely is on sabbatical until April 12, 2022. In place of his column during those months, he has selected some of his favorite spiritual writings to share.)

The force that created the unimaginable splendors
and the unimaginable horrors
has taken refuge in us,

And it will follow our commands.

Power in the hands of the weak creates suffering
and divides men.

Those who have held beauty work to overcome
their prejudice
and seek to bring all into
her arms,

For nothing makes more sense
than being there
with Him

St. Catherine of Siena, 1347 - 1380

(Worship Services continued from page 1)

future time when we are better people — but as we are **right now**. This morning, we will learn more about the program and the philosophy behind it.

Worship Leader: Patricia Hennigan, Ministerial Intern

Worship Associate: Joe Anzek

Music: Courtney Orlando, piano; Marjorie Herman

Do you know you can watch recorded Sunday sermons online?

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



Have you missed a Sunday?

Last chance to bid on future fun!

The UUCP 2022 Fellowship Auction
is open at www.charityauction.bid/UUCPAuction2022

from Sunday, February 27 through Sunday, March 6 at 8:00 pm.

**Over 120 events, dinners, hikes, services, food, lessons,
and more to choose from.**

Check your e-mail, spam folders, and text messages for your personal access to the site.

If you can't find the e-mail or text message,
log on to the UUCP website for a link.

Bid ASAP and check back often!

Questions or problems, contact:

Candus Hedberg at ckhedberg@gmail.com

Laurie Powsner at lrpjak@gmail.com

Louise Senior at drlsenior@gmail.com

All proceeds benefit the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton.

March Spiritual Theme – Acceptance

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 *Acceptance* this month are:

“Some people believe holding on and hanging in there are signs of great strength. However, there are times when it takes much more strength to know when to let go and then do it.” — Ann Landers

Have you ever felt a need to let go? If you have, in your experience, was it more difficult to let go or to hold on?

“Many people resented my impatience and honesty, but I never cared about acceptance as much as I cared about respect.” — Jackie Robinson

Do you or have you ever felt a need to be accepted? If you did and no longer do, what changed?

“That is the definition of faith - acceptance of that which we imagine to be true, that which we cannot prove.” — Dan Brown

Have you ever had faith in anything that you had imagined but could not prove? Why or why not?

“My happiness grows in direct proportion to my acceptance, and in inverse proportion to my expectations.” — Michael J. Fox

Have you ever felt an inverse relationship between your acceptance and expectations? What is at the root of the correlation?



HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

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



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*

Children and Youth Faith Development

Beloveds -

We are so glad to have added back in the option for in-person activities for all ages. Please reach out to me (jennifer@uuprinceton.org) if your children would like to take part in virtual gatherings. We are in the process of developing offerings through June based on our families' needs.

A Gentle Reminder: Action Required

A reminder to families to please fill in their times of commitment. Please click on the link below to sign-up for your turn as a class or chapel assistant this winter and spring.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0945a8a629a46-childrens2>

Children's Chapels for 2022

Our foundation for our children's chapels throughout 2022 will be a curriculum called "Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints," based on the book of the same name. *Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints* is an illustrated children's book about people of diverse faiths working for more love and justice in their corners of the world, even when that means rocking the religious boat. We'll learn together about individuals like Thich Nhat Hahn, Bayard Rustin and Florence Nightingale as well as lesser known people - Rachel Held Evans and Valerie Kaur. The schedule on the following page includes the upcoming children's chapel dates.

~ Rev. Jennifer

Our Pledge of Care

We ask our families and adult volunteers in the Faith Development program to pledge their care to one another by:

- Being as vaccinated as possible
- Not attending in-person events if testing positive for Covid-19
- Not attending in-person events if a member of your household has Covid-19
- Staying home if running a temperature, not feeling well, or if quarantined from school or work due to a Covid-19 exposure
- Wearing masks at all times while in the building and when in close proximity to one another outdoors (all those older than 2 years)



Our Winter-Spring 2022 Schedule Children & Youth Faith Development Gatherings

MARCH

SUNDAY**In Person at 10:30am****March 6**Pre-K-7th Gatherings. No Coming of Age (COA) or OWL today.
Virtual Murray Grove Retreat for Coming of Agers March 4-5.**March 13**Pre-K-7th Chapel today. OWL in Room 1.
Team building COA for those not in OWL.**March 20**Pre-K-7th Gatherings. OWL in Room 1.
Team building for COA for those not in OWL.**March 27**

Pre-K-7th: Worship. COA meets.

APRIL

SUNDAY**In Person at 10:30am****April 3**

Pre-K-7th Gatherings. COA meets.

April 10

Pre-K-7th: Worship. COA meets.

April 17

Easter Sunday Pre-K-7th: Worship. COA may meet (check with leaders).

April 24

Pre-K-7th Chapel today. COA meets.

MAY

SUNDAY**In Person at 10:30am****May 1**

Pre-K-7th Gatherings. COA meets.

May 8

Pre-K-7th Chapel today. COA meets.

May 15

Pre-K-7th Gatherings. COA meets.

May 22

Pre-K-7th: Worship. COA meets.

May 29Memorial Day Weekend Pre-K-7th: Worship.
COA may meet (check with leaders).

JUNE

SUNDAY**In Person at 10:30am****June 5**Flower Ceremony Pre-K-7th: Worship.
COA may meet (check with leaders).**June 12****Youth Led Coming of Age Worship****June 19**Pre-K-7th Chapel today.
COA may meet (check with leaders).**June 26**Summer Break Begins. Chapels resume late August.
Stay tuned for other gatherings.

Youth in grades 8th-12th grade not enrolled in Coming of Age are welcome to join our Pre-K-7th grade gatherings as **junior guides**. In this role they'll gain additional experience of our UU values while serving as role models for younger children. Please check in with jennifer@uuprinceton.org for more information.

Children Younger than 3 are welcome to attend our Pre-K/Kindergarten class accompanied by a grown-up.

Gracenotes

News of Note

Our annual All Music Sunday was held as planned on Sunday, Feb. 27. It was the first of these gatherings since March of 2020, so we were all grateful that it could happen as scheduled. We had to work around illness in some quarters, but we persevered, and a “good time was had by all.” Soloists, Adult Choir, Bell Choir, and String Quartet were all on hand for a program that spanned the infinite treasure trove of musical gems.

Next on the docket for the Adult Choir will be music chosen to support the Annual Giving Campaign, on March 20.

Participating in a UU Princeton ensemble is a rewarding way to give back to our community. Singing in the choir has been an uplifting experience for many in our congregation. We sing music of all styles, periods, and faiths. That’s why our jolly band of singers persists each Wednesday evening from 7:30pm until 8:45pm. We are masked and socially distanced by 4 feet in any direction. You are welcome to come by any Wednesday evening to experience our soulful music making, or contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net.

Our Handbell Choir made its debut in the fall of 2021 under the direction of Joelle Piercy. Our ringers enjoy their weekly practices in the Founders Room every Thursday evening. You may have heard them ring during our recent All Music Sunday service, and they’ll play again for the March 6 service.

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

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.



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.



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 UUCP 2022
Fellowship Auction

is open at
www.charityauction.bid/UUCPAuction2022
from **Sunday, February 27**
through **Sunday, March 6 at 8:00**
pm.

**Over 120 events, dinners,
hikes, services, food, lessons,
and more to choose from.**

Check your e-mail, spam folders,
and text messages for your
personal access to the site.
If you can't find the e-mail or text
message,
log on to the UUCP website for a
link.



Sample Auction Gift Basket

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).

Elaine, Kamal and Rekha and the Nigam Family would like to say it has meant so much to them hearing from UUCP congregants the many expressions of love, condolences, and memories about Raj. A Memorial Service will be held for Raj the afternoon of May 28, 2022 at 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

Women's Alliance

Virtual Lunch and Program Thursday, March 17, 2022, 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 **“WHETHERproofing Your Financial House” with Darci Erickson**. Darci's presentation will provide a working understanding of several key principles about how money works, the significance of knowing how much money is required for retirement and how to build a solid financial house. No reservation is required and all congregants and guests are welcome to attend! For information about how to connect on Zoom, please check e-Happenings on the first two Fridays in March or contact Lisa Roche (see contact information below).

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 on the third Thursday 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 until further notice. Our April 21st lunch program will be “Eat, Sleep, Play Your Way to Health” with congregant Marc Rubenstein.

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! Keep an eye on *e-Happenings* for the Zoom link. (Contact peggy.matthews@gmail.com if you have questions.)

**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

Prince**ton** 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

If you are planning the year, the following are the dates for Full Moon Circles in the upcoming church year: **Mar 18**, Apr 15, May 13, Jun 17

Spring





The Social Justice Council meets to enhance the collaborative work of our various shared social justice ministries (noted below). The SJ ministries assist those in need, educate about injustice, and work towards systemic change to create a more just and beloved society.

Council meetings are held about four times a year with Rev. Bill Neely, and the 2022 Council consists of: Louise Senior, Amanda Gillum, Sharon Copeland, Ray Nichols and Judy Vee. General requests and inquiries about the Social Justice Council can be sent to socialjustice@uuprinceton.org. To be connected to specific action groups, please consult the contacts below.

Social Justice ministries (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 & 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 Ministry – conducts anti-racism work inside and outside of UUCP (Sharon Copeland and Kevin Trayner, racialjustice@uuprinceton.org)

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

Affiliated Activities:

Spring/Fall Sale – Proceeds from our 50+ annual, congregation-wide rummage sales fund our annual Social Justice Outreach Grants (Sale Coordinators: Judy Vee, Binnie Thom, Teri Hyatt, Amanda Gillum & Cathy Bauer-Koggan)

Social Justice Outreach Grants – Financial grants to local non-profits sponsored by UUCP congregants, determined by committee review of applications. Funded by annual Spring Sale proceeds (Review Committee Chair: Gareth Funka-Lea, gfunkalea@gmail.com)

Carol Allen (Liaison to Coalition for Peace Action)

Jeanne DeVoe (Liaison to Not in Our Town)

Valerie Haynes (Liaison to Princeton Community Housing)

Debra Lambo (Liaison to RepresentUS NJ)

Dunbar Birnie (Liaison to Citizen’s Climate Lobby)

CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

This is Loaves and Fishes Month! March 18-25, 2022

Our annual Loaves and Fishes meal in Trenton at St. Mary’s Cathedral is needed as much as ever, and we will provide both a dinner and a bag lunch to guests on Saturday March 26, 2022. We again sponsor the last meal in March with our sister congregation at UU Washington Crossing. Loaves and Fishes has requested 400 dinners and bag lunches, with about 200 served in person and 200 ‘to go.’

Because of COVID, only the regular Loaves and Fishes task team serve meals to smaller groups inside the cathedral dining room. They also hand out many ‘to go’ meals on Saturday as well. Virtually all of our volunteer needs are in the week before, not serving or cleaning up on Saturday at the Cathedral (as in previous years).

Our menu will be home-baked Southwest chicken thighs, potato salad, cole slaw, veggies with dip, a roll/butter, home baked brownies, and a drink. The bag lunch will be our traditional PB&J sandwich, piece of fruit, cookies and a juice box./water bottle

How can you help? SIGN UP on the Loaves and Fishes signup genius at UUCP website to:



- **BE A CHICKEN BAKER:** UUCP Social Justice will buy 200 chicken thighs and spice at wholesale, and you bake it at home, returning it by Friday NOON March 25. The recipe is very easy!

We estimate that we need five ‘chefs’ to bake 40 chicken thighs each. Can pick up ‘kit’ March 18-20.



- **BE A BROWNIE BAKER:** Bake two dozen brownies at your home, cut them, and bag them in zip locks, and return them by Friday NOON March 25. We will need 9 bakers.



- **BE A VEGGIE CHOPPER:** Pick up a bag of carrots & celery, and baggies at UUCP, then clean, slice and bag up into 30 baggies for our guests. Return by Friday NOON March 25.



- **MAKE PB&J SANDWICHES:** UUCP Social Justice will provide kits for helpers to make 10 sandwiches each, you just provide the knife to spread, a table and your helping hands. We estimate that we will need 20 sandwich makers, though anyone can do double duty (20 sandwiches). Sandwiches must be returned by Friday NOON March 25.

Everything will be driven down to Trenton on Friday



SAVE THE DATE!

April 9, 2022

UUFA GALA

Currently planned as a hybrid event. Last year's gala was a great success for fun and fundraising. We can expect the same this year.

More information to follow! ~Eileen Bird

Save the dates: MAY 6 & 7

SPRING SALE

2022 SPRING SALE – LET’S DO IT!!

We've all been storing away our Sale donations for over 2 years! At last, the coordinating committee has begun planning an **in-person Spring Sale**.

NEW: Two-Day Event (helps with social distancing):

May 6, Friday pm (paid admission)

May 7, Saturday (9am-2pm)

Thanks to the many folks who have volunteered so far! **We're still seeking several key Co-Chairs:**

- Clean-up
- Toys & Games
- Outdoor/Sporting Goods
- Kitchenware
- Appliances
- Electronics

Please think about how you could participate in our major fundraising event for local charities. **Set aside clothing & household items** to donate.

IMPORTANT: ZOOM Kick-off Meeting for all Booth & Activity Chairs: Sunday, March 13, at 2PM. We will email meeting link to you. Thanks.

~Judy Vee, Cathy Bauer-Koggan, Binnie Thom,
Amanda Gillum, & Teri Hyatt,
2022 Spring Sale Coordinators



**“Loving Family”
Zimbabwe African
Sculpture**
Check out the dramatic stone sculpture now installed in Robinson Lounge. Our thanks to **Sarina Prior**, whose brother donated the piece for our 2018 Spring Sale! When the piece did not sell at the Sale, we kept it safely stored. **David Kyle** had time this winter to prepare a **large oak tree stump** as a sturdy (heavy!) and attractive base. The sculpture’s name, **“Wakapila”**, is carved into the back of the piece. Although we don’t know anything about this artist, we do know that the piece is a traditional **Zimbabwe Shona sculpture** of serpentine mineral. The intertwined, embracing **“Loving Family”** is a popular Shona theme. A unique and meaningful addition to our UU Princeton home.

~Amanda Gillum



Racial Justice Ministry

Racial Justice Ministry Updates Mentoring Program Needs Volunteers

The ACE Mentoring Program under the Princeton YMCA needs your help. This is a project supported by the UUCP Racial Justice Ministry. If you want to mentor a middle school or high school age student, to help reduce their absenteeism and stay engaged in school, that would be great! Most kids are non-white and would especially benefit from a young male role model although mentors of all genders and ages are welcome.

ACE also needs help with other tasks. They use volunteers: to recruit volunteers, to onboard new mentees and mentors, to analyze data and prepare reports, to serve as liaison with the schools, to help manage mentors, and for help with events (monthly ACE dinners with mentors and mentees and outreach to the community).

If you are interested, contact Sharon (Sharon.copeland@gmail.com) or Michele (michele.ochsner@gmail.com) for more information and to be put in touch with the ACE Program Director. See <https://princetonymca.org/programs/aceprogram/>.

Conversations About Race

Group 2 for Conversations About Race (CAR) will begin TUESDAY, March 29, 2022 at 8:00 pm. After passing our congregational resolution against racism in January 2021, we have work to do, individually and collectively. The Racial Justice Ministry invites you to talk about race, racism, anti-racism and all the questions you have about these topics. On the UUCP website under Sign Up Genius, you can register for the second group which will begin March 29 at 8:00 pm and continue each week for 6 weeks. The group will be kept small - so that each participant has an opportunity to share and discuss. See:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-conversations>

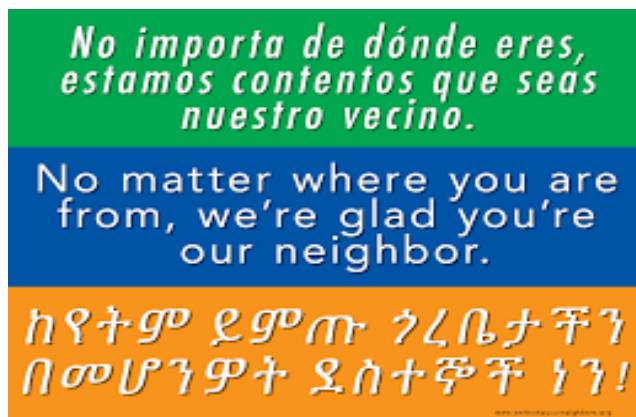
Sign ups accepted through March 22nd. For questions, email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org.

Indigenous Peoples Concerns

The Racial Justice Ministry's project focused on developing relationships with Indigenous People of New Jersey will be hosting several activities in 2022. If you are interested in this area and want to help, please send an email to racialjustice@uuprinceton.org. We work to educate ourselves about the history of Indigenous People in the United States and work on concerns voiced by Indigenous People living in New Jersey, specifically the Ramapough, Powhatan, and Nanticoke whose ancestors were the Lenni Lenape nation. We live on their ancestral land.

Help Requested of Princeton Residents

The Princeton Civil Rights Commission is working on a proposal to create a Citizen Review Board for Princeton. Can you write an email (or paper letter) to the Princeton Council in support of this? Police departments are run by their local municipality. If we want local police to work in the best interests and safety of ALL citizens, it is up to us to be involved in their accountability. To learn more and obtain a sample letter, please contact Lew Maltby at maltbyadr@gmail.com or email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org.



(Social Justice Ministry continued from page 9)

afternoon, March 25. Our friends at Loaves and Fishes will serve the meals and distribute the bag lunches and to-go meals on Saturday morning. You can also sign up to help deliver 'the goods' to Trenton on Friday. Questions? email DRLsenior@gmail.com or socialjustice@uuprinceton.org

What's Loaves and Fishes and why do we do it? TASK, the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, is closed on weekends and they are the major prepared meal supplier in Trenton for those in need. 'Loaves and Fishes,' our partner organization, formed over 35 years ago to provide needed meals on the last two Saturdays of each month, year round, because that is often when household funds run low (before assistance comes in at the beginning of the month). Loaves and Fishes is modeled after Dorothy Day's 'Houses of Hospitality' where everyone is treated with dignity, and served, rather than asked to stand in a soup line. Our UU congregations have partnered to provide the last Saturday in March meal for over 30 years!



Caring for Our Neighbors

ArmInArm is in need of food to help support the Trenton &

Mercer County community. Even though the pandemic seems to be lessening, demand at the food pantries continues to increase each month, and is now almost **TWICE** what it was before COVID.

To help, we have decided to resume our in-church drop-off collection table for food donation in Robinson Lounge at UUCP.

Here are suggested items, with the greatest need for the top three. *No glass containers, please. Be sure to check expiration dates.*

- * Canned low-fructose fruit
- * Canned low-sodium vegetables
- * Canned tuna, salmon, chicken or chili
- * Canned beans or 1 lb. bag dried beans
- * Canned potatoes
- * Cold cereal
- * Hot cereal
- * Shelf-stable milk
- * Honey (plastic container)
- * Olive and canola oil (plastic container)
- * Herbs and spices (plastic container)

Any questions, contact Jody Maher at JodyM1025@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.

Menstrual Products Drive in April 2022

Another chance to help those in need is coming soon! The UUCP Social Justice ministry is sponsoring a Menstrual Products Drive for pads and tampons of different strengths beginning in mid-April. This initial drive will benefit Arm in Arm. Collection boxes will be placed in Robinson Lounge and exact dates will be announced.



There is a need for your donations as these products are expensive and many people cannot afford them. The ["It's Time to Talk" report](#) conducted by *Always®* and *Plan International*, which was based on 11 studies fielded in the U.S. between 2014 and 2020, found that since the pandemic, more than 1 in 3 parents worried about their

ongoing ability to afford period products. Some parents sell their food stamps to obtain money to buy these products.

A 2018 [Always brand survey found nearly 1 in 5 American girls has missed school](#) due to lack of period protection. [23% of students](#) have struggled to afford period products. Lower income students and students of color are more impacted by this problem than their white counterparts.

This site has a great sheet of quick facts: [The-facts--period- | United States | Girls Helping Girls. Period. \(girlshelpinggirlsperiod.org\)](#).

(Social Justice Ministry continued on page 13)

(Social Justice Ministry continued from page 12)

We look forward to your generosity in helping our neighbors in need.

Eileen Bird (eileenbird@msn.com), Lisa Trayner, Louise Senior

Citizens Climate Lobby: We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month, Citizens' Climate Lobby is pleased to have the support of UUCP (see recent UUCP resolution: <http://www.uuprinceton.org/new-climate-resolution/>). **CCL's normal monthly meetings in Fahs have been converted completely to virtual meetings:** The upcoming National broadcast for March will be on Saturday March 12th starting at 1:00PM (log in 5 minutes early for soundcheck); this will be followed by a separate Zoom local Princeton chapter meeting starting at 2:00PM. Mark your calendars and let Dunbar Birnie know if you are interested: he can send the correct zoom info a couple days before the event. Email: dunbar.birnie@gmail.com. Mark your calendars. I'll see you there!

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.

UU History / In the Beginning

By Carl Haag

Diligently digging to find the roots of Unitarian and Unitarianism unearthed some surprises, some courageous souls, some men of great faith, and intriguing events that are hard to believe.

GIANTS WALK THE EARTH

Two specific historical events foreshadowed the development of Unitarianism and Universalism. In 325 AD the Council of Nicea established the dogma of the Trinity within the Nicene Creed. Then, in 544 AD, the belief in universal salvation was condemned as heresy by a church council under the Emperor Justinian's authority. The stage was set for those whose beliefs to the contrary were so powerful that they would express them despite the danger of death.

In Spain during the 16th century, a man was born who challenged the trinitarian doctrine of the church. Michael Servetus (b. 1511) did not follow in the footsteps of his brother, who became a priest. Michael became a physician, but his real interest was theology. It was a time of terror as the harsh, highly organized Spanish Inquisition hunted Jews and Moors to convert or execute them. Servetus believed that the doctrine of the Trinity kept Moslems and Jews from conversion, so he searched the scriptures to find convincing evidence to help them convert. Instead, he found no basis in the Bible for the Trinity. He published his findings in 1531 in a book, *On the Errors of the Trinity*, in which he boldly stated, "Your Trinity is the product of subtlety and madness. The Gospel knows nothing of it."

Orthodox church leaders were less than delighted with Servetus's discovery, and he was branded a "heretic," one who publicly dissented from the officially accepted dogma of the Catholic Church. Servetus went into hiding under an assumed name for 20 years, trying to live the ethics of Christ by serving as a physician to a small community in southern France. He continued to write and in 1552 published his masterpiece, *The Restoration of Christianity*. A copy of this work was tied to his thigh when John Calvin had Servetus burned at the stake in Geneva on October 27, 1553. The Catholics and Calvinists searched for and burned all copies of the book. (Somehow they missed three copies, which still exist in Paris, Vienna, and Edinburgh.) Within months, Sebastian Castellio, reacting to Servetus's death, wrote a book pleading for Christians to stop persecuting others, and it was eagerly embraced by early Baptist and Unitarian congregations.

Servetus had been trying to reach the safety of a radical Protestant community in Northern Italy when he was recognized and captured in Geneva. The Inquisition destroyed this community soon afterward, and its members were scattered like burning embers throughout Europe. One of the members was Dr. Georgio Biandrata, a physician specializing in women's diseases, who accompanied Bona Sforza to Poland. Bona was to be the bride of the Polish

king. As personal physician to the queen, Biandrata was able to advocate humanist reforms and Anti-trinitarian views. As a result, the Minor Church of Poland was formed, later to be led by Socinus.

Some say that Faustus Socinus (b. 1539) was the architect of modern Unitarianism. Born in Italy, he was influenced by his heretical uncle Laelius Socinus and concluded that Jesus was more man than God. At 40 he moved to Poland and became the spiritual leader of those who were called "The Polish Brethren." The most influential work of Socinus was the Racovian Catechism, a propaganda piece designed to instruct adults in theology.

At age 60 this quiet, scholarly man, plagued with chronic illness and with impaired sight and hearing, was dragged from his Cracow home at night by a mob of students. They threw his precious, carefully collected manuscripts and books out the window and burned them. While the mob argued about whether to burn or drown this heretic, a professor was able to rescue him. Socinus lived safely in Luslawice, where one of his devoted disciples was the minister, for the remaining six years of his life. In 1658, the Polish Diet banished all Socinians, most of whom fled the country carrying the Racovian Catechism and their beliefs to Holland and England, where Anti-trinitarianism and Unitarianism took root.

Dr. Georgio Biandrata not only served Queen Bona in Poland but became the physician to her daughter, Isabella, when she married King John Zapolya of Transylvania (the "Land Beyond the Forest"). In Transylvania the doctor again pushed for reformation, and when Isabella's son, John Sigismund, assumed the Transylvanian throne, Biandrata recommended that Francis David be made preacher to the court.

Francis David (b. 1510) was successively a Catholic leader, the Superintendent of Hungarian Lutherans, the Calvinists' Superintendent, and finally the Bishop of the Unitarian Churches of Transylvania (there were almost 500 of them in 1571). David, whose fervent oratory in German, Hungarian, or Latin easily swayed the multitude, influenced King John Sigismund (1540-1571) to outlaw religious intolerance, for the first time in history. The king's decree was made on January 6, 1568, after Francis David's debate with other religious leaders at Torda. This was quite a debate, for it began each day at 5 a.m. and lasted ten days.

The Edict of Torda declared: "In every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel, each according to his understanding of it." Further, no Transylvanian official would be allowed to

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"annoy or abuse" any persons on religious grounds because "faith is the gift of God," not the state's business.

Those holding Anti-trinitarian beliefs were first called "Unitarians" in Transylvania, and it became one of the "received faiths." The tolerance ended when orthodox church officials gained power after King John's death; they condemned David for his innovations. David had begun to deny that Jesus was a deity and was questioning the doctrine of predestination. Dr. Biandrata was concerned enough that he called upon Faustus Socinus to come to Kolozsvár and reason with David. Socinus stayed in David's house for four months without effect. Religious leaders labeled David a "heretic" and had him cast into prison where he died on November 15, 1579.



More than 400 years later, Unitarian churches still exist in Transylvania. Once part of Hungary, Transylvania was given to Romania, which was on the winning side, after World War I. Some 80,000 Unitarians have maintained their churches in small towns, despite 70 years of hostility from the Communist government. Many American UU congregations have become partners with sister congregations in Transylvania, as did UUCP .



Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This ceremony of becoming a member is for those who have previously attended "The Shared Journey" and want to become members. Please sign-up at the Welcome Circle to arrange a time.

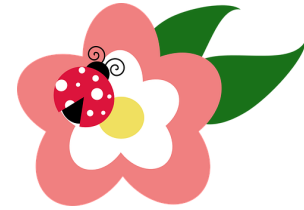
The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

- 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.

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Skylights

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

Rev. Bill is on Sabbatical.
Rev. Jennifer is happy to meet with you individually at church, for lunch, over coffee, etc., at a time that works for everyone. Please contact Rev. Jennifer to make an appointment.

In the event of emergencies needing the attention of a minister, please contact Rev. Jennifer 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 Ministry it belongs.



**Next Skylights
Deadline:**

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Submissions due for the
**April
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