



Skylights newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF PRINCETON



Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

Sundays: One Service Only at 10:30, Live in Channing and Live-streamed on Zoom.
Please see Page 2, and keep an eye on your email, as well as www.uuprinceton.org for updates.

September 1, *The Blessing of Helping Hands*

The work of our hands mixed with the warmth of our hearts is powerful. This Labor Day weekend join us for a service of renewal and gratitude as we honor everyday labors of love.

Worship Leader: Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

Worship Associate: Emma Moore

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

September 8, *Improving the Silence*

One of Gandhi's teachings was to "speak only if it improves the silence." This advice to be economical and intentional with our words can foster a practice of deep listening that leads to greater connection, or, taken to an extreme, it may lead us to be silent when words are important. How can we balance voice and silence?

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely **Worship Associate: TBA**

Music: Marjorie Herman; Adult Choir; Sue den Outer, Pianist

September 15, *Bringing UU Racial Justice Values to the Public Square*

This year's election campaigns have clearly shown the need for our UU values to be present in our own thoughts and actions. Leaders of UU Princeton's Racial Justice Ministry will outline the background of those values and how they apply to this election season, and we will outline specific ways for congregants to be active with Hope, Love, Justice, and Joy.

Worship Leader: UU Princeton Racial Justice Ministry

Worship Associate: RJM Neely

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

September 22, *Water Communion Celebration*

We celebrate the ceremonial start of our church year with our annual all-ages Water Communion service! All are invited to bring water from your home or travels to merge with everyone else's as we begin the year together. Don't worry if you forget your water – we'll have some for you!

Worship Leaders: Rev. Bill Neely and Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

Worship Associate: Jeanne DeVoe

Music: Marjorie Herman; Adult Choir; Sue den Outer, Pianist

September 29, *Climate Change and Human Change*

Today, we join Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country for a "Climate Justice Revival Sunday" focusing on our commitment to the planet and the beings living on it. Together, in an all-ages service, we'll imagine how we can make changes that create a more sustainable climate and a just world. Keep an eye on your email and Happenings for announcements about our other Climate Justice events on this day.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Bill Neely and Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

Worship Associate: TBA

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

The Good News

I knew pretty quickly after I attended my first Unitarian Universalist worship service that I would join that congregation. I had been raised in a different religion and was an active youth member of a congregation of that faith. Mentors and role models were abundant, and they welcomed, both naturally and with intention, my young involvement, questions, and ideas. And I saw their commitment at every level: from being a youth member of the governing board on a Thursday night to shampooing the Sanctuary carpets on a Friday night to serving dinner at the local interfaith soup kitchen on Saturday night to going to church school and worship on Sunday morning. I also saw the congregation's members welcome the visitors every Sunday, standing at the front door with a smile and a program and friendly directions to the coat rack and bathrooms. Watching members lead through service became part of my congregational DNA in those early years. And I knew that as I grew into adulthood, I would join those ranks.

I just needed the right faith, which I found with a friend's help in college. It really was that simple: the friend invited me to go to worship with her and I went. That continues to be the most effective and lasting growth strategy for any congregation of any faith: bring a friend with you, sit with them, introduce them to two or three people there, and then go eat lunch afterwards. There are plenty of other growth strategies too, but none is more reliable than this highly relational one. A personal invitation easily remains the best approach.

And so I joined, several months after I started attending (I wanted to settle in before signing the book). The process involved going to a newcomer class led by a devoted member who is now with the ancestors. He would later write one of my recommendation letters to get into seminary. Will Frank taught us about our broader history, our congregational history, the denomination, and the *Seven Principles*. He asked about our lives, answered our questions, and invited us to offer our own thoughts. He modelled curiosity; open-mindedness; respect; and a genuine, understated joy. He helped us feel at home.

And a little later in the year, in a Sunday service, he opened the congregation's Membership Book and a couple of us took our turns signing. We were then welcomed by him, by the minister, and by the congregation. We sang and smiled and I felt something change in me. This was my first adult act of joining a congregation, and I felt connected to a long line of people I had never met before me, and a large web of people who along with me, were building our faith during our days. I saw the congregation differently: not only as something to experience and enjoy, but also as something to help strengthen so that others could experience and enjoy it as well. I realized that I would need to welcome now, not be welcomed. I was a member, and so my job was to be like Will: help build the sacred community that would welcome and serve others, beyond even the days with which I am graced.

We're going to dive into our shared ministry of Membership this year in several different ways. We'll revitalize our Membership Ministry so that it invites more participation. We'll raise the visibility of what Membership means both technically (bylaws) and spiritually (our promises to each other). We'll travel some paths that others have cleared, and we'll make some new paths of our own as we rebuild and focus on what is a tremendous opportunity for our congregation to meet our Mission. For that is what Membership is really about: being a spiritual community of hope, love, justice, and joy that blesses not only the congregation that is, but everyone who is touched by our message and presence. We want every visitor and stranger to experience the blessings of UU Princeton; that's the offering we make to the world, and it is exactly what so many of our known and unknown neighbors need. And members, past, present, and future, make that happen. They sustain and strengthen what we offer, so that we serve beyond ourselves, each Sunday and every day in between.

Blessed Be,
Rev. Bill

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.

bill@uuprinceton.org
jennifer@uuprinceton.org

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

For Our Newcomers

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.*

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

**September Spiritual Theme—Together
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 chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org. Our Chalice Circle thoughts and questions around the theme of *Together* this month are:

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

— Helen Keller

What is a memorable thing you've done working together with others?

True love doesn't happen right away; it's an ever-growing process. It develops after you've gone through many ups and downs, when you've suffered together, cried together, laughed together.

— Ricardo Montalban

*Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
Have you experienced "true love" the way it is defined here?*

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

— Chief Seattle

When do you feel most connected with others?

Music brings people together. So my function in anything I do is to help bring people closer in.

— Gord Downie

What do you think builds positive connections?

2024-2025 Chalice Circles Recruiting New Members

Chalice Circles are small groups that meet monthly to share our experiences and thoughts around spiritual themes. Topics of discussion align with the spiritual themes of the Sunday Services.

The format of Chalice Circles leads to deep reflection on UU Principles as well as strong bonds between members. Sharing is done in confidence without cross-talk or feedback from other members, which creates a safe place to be fully heard and a practice of mindfully listening to others.

As we begin our new church year, we encourage new members to consider becoming involved in this sacred ministry. Registration will take place after Sunday services in September, or you are welcome to register online with the link

or QR code shown below. Questions can be sent to ChaliceCircles@uuprinceton.org.



***Signing the Membership Book
Ceremony***

This ceremony of becoming a member is for those who have previously attended "Exploring our Faith" and want to become members of our congregation. Please contact Rev. Bill to arrange a time.
bill@uuprinceton.org

**JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP SERVICE**
In-Person, as well as live-streamed, at
10:30 a.m. in Channing Hall

Via live-streamed video:

[https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIUVBM)

[pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIUVBM
QT09](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIUVBM)

Joys and Sorrows

Our congregation mourns the passing of Fansie Connelly, Ingrid Reed, and Alice Harper. We hold each of their families in our hearts. May they feel surrounded by love and care as they grieve their loved ones. May we care for one another as we grieve the loss of beloved members and friends.

In Loving Memory, Fansie Connelly

UU Princeton sends our sympathy to the family of Fansie Connelly, member of our congregation since 2000, who died recently at 62 years old from complications from diabetes. Fansie was a warm friend to many who brought joy and a sense of community with her everywhere she went. She will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be scheduled soon, and we'll send that information out as it becomes available. Emails of support, especially that include memories of Fansie, can be sent to Tom, her husband, at tprusa@gmail.com.

In Loving Memory, Ingrid W. Reed

UU Princeton sends our love and care to the family and friends of Ingrid W. Reed, member of our congregation since 1963, who passed away peacefully on July 27, 2024. She was surrounded by her children at the time. Ingrid's presence and leadership in our congregation over the decades made us more active, more loving, and more welcoming. Her gifts will live on in everything we do.

A Celebration of Ingrid's life will be scheduled soon. We'll send that information out when it's ready. Please click this link for her obituary: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/07/ingrid-w-reed-nj-civic-leader-enduring-legacy/>

Ingrid Reed, 1936-2024

In Loving Memory, Alice Harper

We send our love and care to the family and friends of Alice Harper, who joined UU Princeton in 2004 and passed away recently in Maine. Alice had moved to Maine a few years ago, but her warmth, joy, and commitment were a part of our congregation for almost two decades and continue to bless us today. We are grateful for her life and hold her family in the light of love.

Memorial Service will be held in Maine on September 15, at 2 pm, hosted by the UU Church of Ellsworth.
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91866528489>

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.

Leadership Development and Nominating Committee

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Making Connections at UU Princeton

We all have gifts, skills, talents, interests, and strengths that we enjoy sharing with others. Do you have a gift to share with the UU Princeton community, yet are uncertain how to make that connection? Now is your chance to explore the many opportunities and meet current participants. On **Sunday, October 6th, the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee is hosting Sharing Our Gifts.** This event will host folks from many of our committees, programs, and interest groups who will be happy to tell you about what they do and provide you with opportunities to join. Your participation may be one time, weekly, monthly, or even semi-annually; you decide where and how your gifts will best be shared.

Join us at Sharing Our Gifts on Sunday, October 6, 11:30-12:30 in Robinson Lounge.

Cathy Bauer-Koggan for Leadership Development and Nominating Committee

Conscious Communication

Would you like to improve upon your skills for communicating with family and community? On **Sunday, November 10th, the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee is offering Conscious Communication**, a 6-step program to improve communication skills in an interactive workshop designed to allow space for us all to learn and practice. The session will be held following Sunday services. A community member, Angela Colva, will lead the activity and looks forward to joining with all of you as we expand our abilities to communicate well, even in difficult conversations.

Join us for Conscious Communication on Sunday, November 10, 12:00-2:00 in the Founders Room.

Angela Colva for Leadership Development and Nominating Committee

ldnc@uuprinceton.org

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 Ministry

Children and Youth Ministry

It has been a delight to welcome our children, including some newcomers, and parents to our summer events and activities. We are grateful to Beth Behrend, Maya Zama, Courtney Orlando, Lydia Rieck, Dave Avasthi, Tony & Max Klon, and Kirsten Shearer for leading children's gatherings this summer - as well as Sarah Valerio, Chris Sturm, & Molly Sharlach who will lead activities in September. Our activities have included rainy day games & a tour of our building; creating a garland to decorate Robinson Lounge (an idea by rising 4th grader Maya Zama); (More) Plant-based Play!; an outdoor "slip and slide"; and mandala sand art; our **September schedule** is below. We are also grateful to Steven Valerio for arranging "Butter Sculpting" led by the visiting Tibetan Buddhist Monks from Gaden Shartse's Monastery in late August.

Registration for Children and Youth for the upcoming year will be available by mid-September. Stay tuned to emails and weekly E-Happenings for an overview on the year's program options and registration forms. Our fall-spring program kicks off on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

September 2024	
Sunday, September 1	All welcome in worship
Sunday, September 8	Sarah Valerio will share fun, age-appropriate skills for managing daily stressors to support us as we go back to school and the big feelings that can come with the transition
Sunday, September 15	Back to School "Backpack Blessing" during worship followed by an All-Ages Nature Walk on Mountain Lakes Trails adjacent to UU Princeton property with Chris Sturm and Molly Sharlach
Sunday, September 22	Annual Ingathering & Water Communion
Sunday, September 29	All-Ages "Climate Justice Revival Sunday" worship service

Saturday, September 14

Children & Youth Ministry VOLUNTEERS PLEASE SAVE THE DATE; more details will be sent to you directly for our CHILDREN & YOUTH LEADERS AND ASSISTANT ORIENTATION/TEAM BUILDING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: 9:30AM-3PM in person at UU Princeton (lunch provided). If you would like to volunteer but cannot make the in-person training, additional arrangements will be provided.

Sunday, September 15 12:15 pm-1:15 pm

UU Princeton Children & Youth Ministry Open House: Our fall-spring program for children and youth begins on October 6. For a more detailed description of our 2024-2025 program, join us for a UU Princeton Open House on Sunday, September 15 at 12:15pm in Fahs Theatre. *This is a great event to spread the word about and invite your friends and neighbors.* **If you are in need of childcare, please RSVP here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-50736369-children>

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS IN CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Our 2024-2025 programming will begin **Sunday, October 6** and we are seeking **additional volunteers** to lead our fun and meaningful gatherings for children and youth.

Sunday Morning Leaders who serve 1x/month, time commitment is moderate: includes 2-3 hours coordinating with your teaching team and preparing for the lesson; arriving by 10am Sunday morning to setup the classroom and brief your classroom assistant; leading the lesson, which begins after "Wonder & Wisdom" in the worship service; closing and clean-up generally done by 12pm.

We are seeking 1 leader for the Pre-K/K age group, 1-2 leaders for the 1st-4th age group, and possibly 1 leader for the 5th-6th age group.

Sunday Morning Assistants who serve 1x/month, time commitment is minimal: 20-30 minutes the week before your chosen Sunday and arriving by 10:10am Sunday mornings to help class leaders with setup. **Openings for 3 age ranges: Pre-K/Kindergarten, 1st-4th grade, and 5th-6th grade.**



UU HISTORY- The early days of our country's formation - by Carl H. Haag

CHAPTER 3 - Part C

OUR FATHERS WHO ART IN POLITICS

This was a time of ferment, especially in politics and religion. Benjamin Franklin (b. 1706) exemplifies a man who was not afraid to explore new paths in many areas of endeavor. Franklin, like Jefferson, was a Renaissance man. He was an inventor (the Franklin stove, bifocal spectacles, the lightning rod) and scientist, a writer (*Poor Richard's Almanack*), printer, publisher, postmaster, and statesman. Franklin helped create both the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. He lived in both England and France, helping the American government win critically needed recognition from the latter.

While never severing ties with the Presbyterian denomination, he visited many other churches at home and abroad. Ben Franklin had contact with both Unitarians and Universalists. During his ten years in London, Franklin met regularly with the Dissenter writers and artists. Dinner gatherings were held at the home of Joseph Johnson, a liberal London publisher. The guests usually included William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Franklin, Thomas Paine, and Joseph Priestley. It is no surprise, as mentioned earlier, that Benjamin Franklin and the avowed Unitarian Priestley were at the first Unitarian service held in England in 1774. Franklin continued to attend a Unitarian church while in London.

On May 25, 1790, in Philadelphia, the Universalists held an organizing convention attended by 17 delegates from eight societies in four states. John Murray was the delegate from Massachusetts and represented both the Gloucester and the Boston churches. Afterwards, John and Judith Sargent Murray stayed on for a month in Philadelphia.

In mid-June, Judith wrote a letter to her parents, saying: "The sentiments of the Universalists are growing every day more respectable in this city. The family of Dr. Franklin are among the foremost of our favorers. Mrs. Bache, the doctor's daughter, says it was her father's opinion, that no system in the Christian world was so effectually calculated to promote the interests of society, as that doctrine which shows a God reconciling a lapsed world unto himself."

In the yeasty times of the beginning of the United States of America, one wonders how the religious values of Adams, Jefferson, and Franklin helped shaped the grand experiment of the American democracy.

The descendants of John and Abigail Adams continued to provide distinguished service to the nation as well as to maintaining their Unitarian roots.

In 1809 an American named Adams was sent to be minister to Russia. He also served as minister to the Netherlands, Prussia, and Great Britain. That was not all: the son of John and Abigail Adams, John Quincy, was also a US Senator, member of the House of Representatives, and of course the sixth president (he did not win the election but gained it in the House when Henry Clay supported him over Andrew Jackson). John Quincy Adams (b. 1767) also helped draw up the Treaty of Ghent, start the Smithsonian, and became the stellar Secretary of State who created the Monroe Doctrine. Late in his life Adams argued the Amistad case before the Supreme Court, and the Africans who had seized the slave ship were freed to return home.

Charles Francis Adams (b. 1807) was the son of John Quincy Adams. Charles studied law under Daniel Webster and was appointed by Lincoln to be the minister to Great Britain during the Civil War. His bold dignity and wisdom is credited with keeping the British from recognizing the Confederacy.

This ends the Tale about the amazing group of men and women who were very important to the formation of our country and the template upon which our future country operated.

Adult Faith Development

Exploring Our Faith

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism (UU) and UU Princeton? Attend *Exploring Our Faith*, an interactive 60-minute discussion with Rev. Bill Neely. We'll talk about UU beliefs and history, our congregation and people, and the meaning of membership. All are welcome! Our next *Exploring Our Faith* session will be on Sunday Oct. 6 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., in-person at UU Princeton.

No sign-up needed

Buddhist Meditation Group

UU Princeton's Buddhist meditation group meets every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:25 in Fahs Theater and on Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:15 pm on Zoom. Whether you are a beginning or experienced meditator, all are welcome! Please contact Michele Ochsner (michele.ochsner@gmail.com) to receive weekly email reminders and Zoom links.

Zen Meditation Practice and Talks

All are welcome to discuss and practice Zen Meditation on the Fourth Sunday of every month from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The practice consists of chanting the heart sutra and 25 minutes of seated meditation followed by a Dharma talk and discussion. Contact Steve Valerio (sgvalerio312@gmail.com) for more info.

U the Vote

Many in our congregation are engaged in non-partisan voter registration and turnout efforts, and our denomination also has a program named *UU the Vote* that seeks to bring our democratic values to life in the public square. Let's gather to learn about your non-partisan voter registration efforts with various groups, as well as our denomination's non-partisan program to encourage voter education and participation. We'll meet on Sunday, Sept. 8, from 11:45 am to 12:45 p.m. to share about what we're working on, and how we might work together, this fall. Please register on the SignUp Genius page at UUPrinceton.org.

Short Story Hour

Join Rev. Bill for the reading and discussion of a short story! All are welcome as we engage the spiritual themes of a short work of fiction. The program will be offered on Zoom on Fridays, Sept. 20 and Oct. 18 at 12 noon. Keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. No sign-up needed.

Our Values, Our Faith

Unitarian Universalists across the country recently approved turning our *Seven Principles* into Six Values (Interdependence, Justice, Generosity, Pluralism, Transformation, and Equity) centered on a foundation of Love. Let's talk about the new values, the language that surrounds them, and the love that brings them to life. We'll meet on Sundays, Oct. 6, 13, and 20, from 9-9:45 a.m. in the lower lounge. Please register on the SignUp Genius page at UUPrinceton.org.

Young Adult Groups (ages 18-27 and 28-40)

Interested in meeting other young adults within the UU Princeton community? Come to Young Adult Sundays, at least once a month! Emma Moore (emoore42@gmail.com), Irene Donne (irene.donne@gmail.com), and others are working on developing connections for fellowship, activism, and fun! Email the two of us any time or come introduce yourself after Sunday service. Join the email list to get each month's date and keep connected for other events.

UU Princeton Book Discussion Group

Join us as we begin our new year of discussions of member-chosen books. All are welcome.

We will meet at noon in the John Murray Room unless otherwise noted.

Here's our reading list for the year:

September 15, *James* by Percival Everett

November 17, *In the Shadows*, Mickey Bergman, Ellis Henican

January 12, *There, There*, Tommy Orange

March 16, *The United States Governed by Six Hundred Thousand Despots*, John Swanson Jacobs, edited by Jonathan D. S. Schroeder

May 18, *Fourteen*, The Author's Guild, Margaret Atwood, Douglas Preston

Happy Reading!

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

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

For more information about CUUPS events, please reach out to Herb Foster at herb_foster@yahoo.com to join the Evergreen CUUPS mailing list, or to Jennifer Santos at jsantoscnm@verizon.net or Kate Foster at subligaria@yahoo.com, Co-Convenors, with questions

Discussing Democracy

Faithful and healthy participation in democracy can be difficult when electoral politics are so toxic and dishonest. And yet, there are ways we can approach even divisive times with understanding, civility, and love. In this Zoom-only series, we'll talk about how. We'll gather online on Wednesdays, Oct. 16, 23, and 30 from 6-7 p.m. Please register on the SignUp Genius page at UUPrinceton.org to make sure you receive the Zoom link.

Green Burial Update

Sunday Sept. 22, 12 noon – 1 p.m., Channing Hall
In 2019, members of our congregation voted to accept a major gift in pursuit of the development of a Green Burial, or Natural Burial, site in the area. Much has happened since then! Join members of UU Princeton's Natural Burial team for an update on our purchase of property, permit and approval status, and preparation of the land for natural burials. After a presentation, there'll be time for your questions.

Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a way to ensure that our congregation continues to be strengthened by your gifts long into the future. Including UU Princeton in your will or estate planning grows our Endowment, which is a great source of strength for our congregation over generations. And yet, we don't always know who has included UU Princeton in their planned giving. If you have done so, please email Rev. Bill at Bill@UUPrinceton.org so that we can connect with and thank you. And if you have not done so but would like more information on planned giving, please also email Rev. Bill and we'll be back in touch soon.

Princeton Eats Plants

Join Princeton Eats Plants, a vibrant UU Princeton community promoting plant-based living through monthly potluck gatherings. Discover delicious, plant-powered dishes and connect with others passionate about sustainable eating and cruelty-free living. Exchange recipes, share journeys, and forge connections. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or curious about plant-based diets, join us every first Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Founder's Room. Contact Vicky Campbell, JoEllen, or John Burton for details.

Meet Up group: <https://www.meetup.com/princeton-eats-plants/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2428735040700564>

(Continued from page 5)



YoUth Group Advisors: Our YoUth Group is in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills (UUCSH) in Somerville, NJ again this year. Advisors are asked to help guide one program/month. Meetings/outings are Sundays from 4:30pm-6:30pm. We exchange meetings at each other's congregations, meet for social events and community service, and attend regional youth "cons." **We are seeking 1-2 advisors.**

Orientation and training are provided. All volunteers work together on a team and teams include veteran leaders who will support newer leaders and assistants.

Requirements for anyone working with children or youth:

- Facilitators/mentors/advisors for *Our Whole Lives (OWL)*, *Coming of Age*, and High School youth group must be aged 25+.
- Leaders and Assistants for Pre-K-6th grade must be aged 18+ (Jr. Assistant may be aged 14+).
- Volunteers must have an up-to-date background check. Background checks are obtained through and are paid for by the congregation.
- To serve as a leader or mentor, volunteers must be a member of the congregation or have attended regularly for at least 6 months. (Exceptions may be made for those coming from prior congregations).
- *Our Whole Lives*, *Coming of Age* and *Youth Group* facilitators must be a member of the congregation
- Attend volunteer orientation. If you are unable to attend, establish a make-up time with the Assistant Minister. This year's orientation will be held on **Saturday, September 14 from 9:30am-3pm.**
- Regular and prompt communication with team members and the Assistant Minister (most of our communications are through email).
- The Assistant Minister reserves the right to approve or decline any volunteer applicant according to best practices and professional judgment.

We look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant team of volunteers!

And as always, I am here for you in times of personal and family transitions and/or challenges. Please do contact me at jennifer@uuprinceton.org or 609-924-1604, ext. 118 if I can be of support.

With abiding love, Rev. Jennifer



Women's Alliance

Lunch and Program – Thursday September 19, 2024, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Founder's Room In-person Only

Join us at noon in the Founder's Room for our first lunch of the church year. Please bring a salad or sandwich to share; the Women's Alliance will provide dessert and beverages.

Our first program will feature Albert Hepner, the author of *Avrumele: Recollections of a Hidden Child*. He will share his story of resilience and survival and one child's experience during the Holocaust. At the start of World War 11 he was removed from his first grade class by the Gestapo. His journey as a hidden child had begun. Separated at times from his mother, he was hidden in churches, home farms and a convent. Join us he shares his story of the extraordinary journey from Nazi occupied Belgium to Roosevelt, NJ where he currently resides.

No reservation is needed and all members, friends, and guests are welcome! Please feel free to contact Betty Ashwood with any questions (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 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 more fully participate may become a member of the Women's Alliance upon payment of \$10 in annual dues. To be placed on our email list to receive information about the monthly lunches and other activities, to obtain more information about Women's Alliance in general, or to become a member, please contact Betty Ashwood, President at 609 558-1136 (call or text) or email bjashwood@gmail.com.



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 2024 Council consists of Louise Senior, Amanda Gillum, Ray Nichols, and Judy Vee. General requests and inquiries about the Social Justice Council can be sent to sjcouncil@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, caring4neighbors@uuprinceton.org)

Immigration Task Force – assists immigrants, refugees and sanctuary-seekers. Michele Ochsner, sanctuary@uuprinceton.org,

Ministry for the Earth – acts to preserve earth's resources at UU Princeton and among individuals. Ray Nichols earthministry@uuprinceton.org.

UU Faith Action – promotes advocacy actions, through support of UU Faith Action, legislative actions, and other activities. Michael Loney, socialjustice@uuprinceton.org,

Racial Justice Ministry – conducts anti-racism work inside and outside of UU Princeton. Ted Fetter and Kevin Trayner, racialjustice@uuprinceton.org

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

Affiliated Activities:

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

Social Justice Outreach Grants – Financial grants to local nonprofits sponsored by UU Princeton congregants, determined by committee review of applications. Funded by annual Spring Sale proceeds **Review Committee**

Chair: Gareth Funka-Lea,

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 Represent US NJ)

Dunbar Birnie (Liaison to Citizens' Climate Lobby)

Racial Justice Ministry

Do you have a passion for equity, anti-racism and social justice? The focus of our Racial Justice Ministry includes race-related issues in local governments, working with Indigenous peoples, education and school policies, faith development opportunities (a congregational book read is in the works for example), and looking at our own internal policies, practices and history.

Come and check us out and be part of our work. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org for more information or to get on our mailing list. Or **you can** contact co-chairs Kevin Trayner and Ted Fetter directly at Kevintrayner@gmail.com or fetter4@verizon.net.

Caring for Our Neighbors

Caring for Our Neighbors Ministry

Join us for hand-on projects that help hunger and homelessness prevention in Mercer County. Contact Louise Senior at Caring4Neighbors@uuprinceton.org if you'd like to pitch in! You can always bring shelf-stable, in date, unopened food to our **Giving Table in Robinson Lounge**. Contact Jody Maher at JodyM1025@gmail.com if you'd like to help deliver food to Arm in Arm.

ArminArm
better together ♡
Formerly the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County

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 resumed our in-church drop-off collection table for food donation in Robinson Lounge at UU Princeton.

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.



*This is a congregation of open minds,
Of helping hands.
And of loving hearts.
Together we care for our earth
And work for friendship and peace in
the world.*

Gracenotes

Announcing Uur Fall Open House

September 22, 4:00 – 6:00pm

It's YOUR Music Ministry, opening its doors for a preview of what it's like to participate in one of our ensembles.

Our Open House this year has been scheduled for a different date and time than usual to encourage more congregants to consider our wonderful ensembles. At 4:00pm on September 22, we'll gather in Robinson Lounge for a fabulous *Dessert Reception*, including vegan delights from our Princeton Eats Plants ministry. Traditional offerings will complete the sumptuous spread. At 5:00pm our ensembles and guests will move to their regular rehearsal spaces to preview this season's musical offerings.

UU Princeton Ensembles

Adult Choir. Our choristers' number from 15-20 singers and include several people from the community. We're looking for singers in all sections, **but tenors and basses** are especially needed. If you hesitate because you think your voice isn't good enough, come and be surprised at how quickly your voice will expand when surrounded with voices just like yours. Even a minimal amount of choral or music-reading experience is all you'll need to add your voice to this welcoming ensemble. The Adult Choir sings for services about two Sundays per month. To sing in the Adult Choir, contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net, or just come check us out in Channing Hall any Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.



Bell Choir. Our director, Joelle Piercy has been leading our enthusiastic ensemble of bell ringers for fourteen years. Some ringers are experienced but many are first timers who are amazed how user friendly the bells are once a ringer gets familiar with their bells. Rehearsals for the Bell Choir are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm–8:30pm in Founders Room. We have three octaves of bells, but we also have three octaves of chimes, with a softer, sweeter sound. New ringers are always welcome, experienced or not. The Bell Choir members truly enjoy their time together and ring during at least 6 to 8 services during the church calendar year. If interested, contact Joelle at Joellepiercy@gmail.com.



Music Ministry Testimonials

This will be my **14th season** directing the handbell choir. I strive to create an environment of inclusivity and authenticity, where the resonating tones of the bells can represent our joy, sorrow, grief, celebration, renewal, peace, and hope. I look forward each week to making music together during this time of fellowship. **Joelle Piercy, Handbell Choir, Director**

Participation in the Bell Choir has been wonderful for my **heart** (experiencing the enthusiasm and dedication of the members of the group), **mind** (reading and learning music), **spirit** (the joy of making and sharing music) and **body** (the physical movement of ringing the bells). **Binnie Thom, handbell ringer**

Handbells are different, special, and wonderful. There is something nice about being in a small, close knit group experiencing this wonder together. We practice every week and I very much look forward to us playing together....and every so often someone brings chocolate for everyone. **Judy Vee, handbell ringer**

The Adult Choir was my first home at UU Princeton, the door that opened me to so many friends and so much of the work that has enriched my life. I sang as a child but hadn't been in a choir regularly since middle school. Margie and all my welcoming choirmates gave me the love and space to get my chops back, and the confidence to embrace the power of my own voice. We sing such a variety of styles and genres that I am always engaged, always waiting for the next surprise, insight, or deeper understanding. **Emma Moore, Soprano 2**

"My three favorite things about ringing in Bell Choir:

1. Handbells are the only instrument I've ever managed to learn to play.
2. The demographic. We all love music; most of us can read music only slightly, or not at all. These are my peeps.
3. Joelle. She is the kindest, most cheerful director of ANYTHING I've ever met. Her motto seems to be: "They CAN'T sound bad - they're BELLS!" **Eva Laine Foster, handbell ringer**

UU Choir brings so much joy into my life! Rehearsals are truly enjoyable, and I find that whenever we learn a new song, it stays with me. I have all sorts of songs now that I can sing the whole year through! **Kathryn Neal, alto**

I like to sing to myself but had never sung with a choir before. I joined the UU Choir and in spite of my inexperience, I felt welcome and was able to learn from the many talented members, as well as the extremely knowledgeable director. Our practices are focused but easy going enough to allow laughter at times, which signals how comfortable we all feel with each other. Rehearsals sometimes seem chaotic when starting on a new series of pieces, as with All Music Sunday. But come performance day, it makes me happy to sing with the choir. Sometimes I get goosebumps! Since I often feel this joy in singing out to all present, my hope is that I am able to share my joy. **Eileen Bird, alto**

Wow! What a blast! To make music with fun people! To sing joyfully while looking at the faces of our friends in the congregation! To ring bells together and feel that reverberation in your body as the combined overtones soar! I'm so lucky - I get to sing AND ring bells. AND YOU CAN, TOO! Join us in these wonderful experiences! **Candus Hedberg, soprano**

As I grew into adulthood I learned to think about abstract things, and to try to make things good for myself and others. Along the way, I learned how one of the best forms of expression was through making and appreciating music, and how that could reach the mind and soul. The UU Princeton adult choir has really made that important part of life sing, for me, and I hope for others in the room! Margie's ministry is truly a moving experience. **Jim Louis, tenor**

I have not had much meaningful training in reading/playing music, yet I was making music in a group at the first practice, ringing on stage after 2 or 3 practices, no audition, no making "cut" UU Princeton Bell Choir is a profoundly inclusive, nourishing place to be and to do life.

(Continued on page 11)

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Shuang Wu, *handbell ringer*

I joined the choir because Margie talked about group singing as a transformative practice. She made the experience of breathing from the diaphragm sound trippy! I found myself torturously obsessive about all I didn't know about music during our first rehearsals. But with weekly conditioning, the alchemy had a more powerful effect than I'd anticipated: perhaps it had to do with moments of transcendence when the release of self-consciousness by all the choristers at once was palpable — the harmonies seemingly miraculous — or Margie's unrelenting faith in the value of what we were doing and her subsequent presence with us as conductor-minister. **Drake Baer, bass**

A Bittersweet Farewell

After 19 years as Director of Music here at UU Princeton, I feel that the time has come for me to take my leave of this life-changing position. There are several factors at work here, but the most central is that in October I will celebrate my 80th birthday, and finally I'm feeling the effects of getting older. While I'm still healthy, these strains are beginning to make my work here more difficult.

This is not an imminent departure as I will be on board until the end of December 2024. A search for a replacement is beginning, and I know that it will bring a superior musician to continue the musical and inspirational participation that that's been the cornerstone of this ministry. Many thanks to so many of you who have guided me on the most satisfying musical journey of my life.

Most gratefully yours,

Marjorie Herman,
Director of Music, UU Princeton

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



Movie Nights

Films help us explore our commonalities, differences, worries, and dreams. And when we explore them together, it's even more fun! All are welcome to viewings and discussions of *Origin* (2024, PG-13) on Sept. 27 and *Honeyland* (2019, unrated) on Oct. 4, each from 6-9 p.m. in Fahs Theatre.

Honeyland is a beautifully filmed documentary about a beekeeper and her mother in the remote mountains of Macedonia.

Origin is a moving biographical drama based on Isabel Wilkerson non-fiction book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. Popcorn and soda provided: feel free to BYO other snacks and beverages. Please register on the SignUp Genius page at UUPrinceton.org.

SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th at 6 PM
in the FOUNDERS ROOM

WHAT ARE FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS?

Want to get to know more members of UU Princeton, but need help figuring out how to do it? Come to Fellowship Nights! We do all the prep, you just show up.

We provide pizza (other ideas welcome), but we love when people bring side dishes, dessert, or even just a bit of cash to defray the cost (absolutely not required though!)

Our usual format for Fellowship Night is a mix of board games and friendly discussion, but we eagerly accept suggestions for other activities: spiritual discussions, presentations about green investing, racial justice, technical learning, and crafting such as tie-dyeing or making a chalice.

We meet on the second Saturday of every month. Keep an eye out in all your UU Princeton channels. Happenings, e Happenings, and email blasts will tell you what the program is for the month. SignUp Genius is a great way to let us know how much food to order, and even better for accommodating your dietary needs and interaction preferences. But mostly, we just look forward to seeing you, just as you are.

Here is the link and QR code to take you to SignUp Genius. Contact us if you have any questions (cbkoggan@gmail.com).



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-50725128-fellowship>

The UUCP Harvest Potluck Party and Barn Dance will be on FRIDAY September 20th at 5:30-8:30pm in Channing Hall

Enjoy a night of revelry and fun that will include a caller and a band for square dancing, a carefully curated happy hour bar, the great company of our community and delicious fall foods lovingly prepared by...YOU! (Consider a plant based dish!)

Bring more friends to join the fun! No need to line up a sitter; this will be fun for all ages, so families with children are welcome. There will be a \$10 cover per adult and kids enter free. If you're of age and in the mood, bring some extra cash for the bar (credit and debit also accepted!). All event proceeds support our annual congregation celebrations. To RSVP and sign up your dish visit the Sign Up Genius on the UU Princeton website. Email any questions to celebrations@uuprinceton.org

HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

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



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Thank You to Our 2024-2025 Pledging Members and Friends!

Our many ministries of hope, love, justice, and joy are made possible by the generosity and vision of those who make annual pledges to UU Princeton. The following people made those pledges during our Annual Giving drive in the spring, and we are so grateful for everyone's support. And it's never too late to make an annual pledge! Though our church year started on July 1, members and friends can make pledges at any time and each one strengthens what we can offer one another and the world. For more information on pledging, please email Stewardship@UUPrinceton.org.

2024 – 2025 Annual Pledgers

Carol K. Allen, Ethan Allen, Joseph and Harriet Anzek, Suzanne Apel, Betty Ashwood, Dave Avasthi, Drake Baer, Carleen Bailey, James and Carolyn Bradshaw, Joan Bartl, Cathy Bauer-Koggan and Bill Koggan, Earlene Baumunk-Cancilla, Beth Behrend and Robert Eaton, Fran Benson, Linda Benson, John and Estelle Best, Eileen Bird, Carol S. Brown, Marilyn C. Brown, Jo Ellen and John Burton, Victoria K. Campbell, Marcia Cogan, Angela Colva and Chris Herzog, Sharon Copeland and Dave Hoffman, Jordan M. Corn and Rory L. Van Fossen, Meg Cox Leone, Sheryl and Jeff Cruz, Sue and Brian Cupp, Charles Daly and Stephanie Buller, Lenore Danielson, Alice Deanin, Helge Deaton, Jane DeMaio, Jeanne Jackson DeVoe, Irene Donne, Jocelyn and Guy Dorgan, Lotte Doverman, Ted Ellicott, Jeffrey Fadden and Lori M. Inwerson, Kathy Fedorko and Peter Macholdt, Theodore and Jane Fetter, Nancy Fiedler and Jeffrey Bowden, Jenna Finan and Connor Kelly, Judy Fisher, Ronald L. and Jan W. Flaughner, Carol Forte, Lauren Foss, Herb and Eva Liane Foster, Frank Foulkes, Cindy and Gareth Funka-Lea, Oscar and Dell Gerster, Gloria Gietz, Amanda and William Gillum, William B. Gilmore and Karen Kent, Susan Griffin and Dan Thompson, Ken Griggs and Jill Stein, Tara and Ed Grunde-McLaughlin, Carl H. and Rev. Carol S. Haag, Clara Haignere and Bill Potter, Sonia Hardaway, Robert and Stephanie Harris, Kay Hasegawa, Maurice Hauck, Valerie Haynes, Candus Hedberg, Patricia Hennigan, Marjorie and Israel Herman, Brad Hillman and Valerie Werstler, Herb Hirsch and Joelle Hofbauer, Elissa Hoeger, Carolyn and David Hoeschele, Stacy Hoffer, Holly Hotchkiss, Teri Hyatt, Aline Johnson, Karen Johnson, Dudley M. Jones, Sarah Karchere and Winston Sun, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher and John Nycz, Sarah Spalding-Kleiman and Mitch Kleiman, Anthony and Jennifer Klon, Josh Koslov, David Kyle, Debra Lambo, Lois and Peter Laning, Claire Fowler and Michael Lapp, Tom and Dina Laesch, Dorothy Larsen, Nadine LeBeau, Bert Leger, Mike Loney and Audrey Pico, David Lots, Terry Lyons, Jody Maher, Andrea Malcolm and Bill Gleason, Betsy Marshall and George DiFerdinando, Andy Maskell, Peggy Matthews, Sharon McCrae, Jason and Jacquelyn McSheene, Carol Ann Meier, Luci and Jay Meranchik, David H and Katherine S. Miller, Eric and Donna Miller, Linda Joy Miller, Chris Monroe, Emma Moore, Isabela Morales and Charles Swanson, Gerry Myers, Joan E. Mysiak, Karen Nalbhone, Janet A. Narayan, Vicki Nastus, Rev. Bill Neely and Shannon Neely, Beth and Horatio Nichols, Carol J. and Thomas H. Nied, Elaine Nigam, Pauline Nijander, Ann Nugent, Michel Ochsner, Veronique Oomen, Courtney Orlando, Vrunda Patel, Lois Pauley, Edward Pfeiffer, Laurie Powsner and Jonathan Krejci, Frances Prestianni, Fansie Connelly and Tom Prusa, Douglas and Patricia Radtke, Pat Ramirez, Ruth Ramsey, Ingrid Reed, Corinne Reslier, Lorraine Rette, Mirah Riben, Helen Richardson, Lisa M. Roche and Randy Barbiero, Todd Royer and Lorette Pruden, Marc and Melinda Rubenstein, Ann and Bob Russell, Marian Stuart and Keith Sagers, Mark Schlawin and Ilene Dube, Harriet Scooler, Louise Senior and Dunbar Birnie, Marcia and John Shackelford, Molly Sharlach and Kevin Hoeschele, Kirsten Shearer and Matej Bajla, Annette Sheldon and Stan de Riel, Elizabeth and Stephen Silverman, Sundaresa and Inge Srinivasan, Cheryl Stashkevetch, Teresa S. Stevens and Christopher D. Davis, Hunt and Margie Stockwell, Susan Stoneback, Sofia and Michael Strauss, Chris and Jim Sturm, Marie-Diane and David Tenney, Binnie Thom, Rev. Mary Tiebout, Sue Tillett, Carol Tindall, Harry R. and Ruth B. Tomlinson, Lisa and Kevin Trayner, Mary and Rod Tulloss, Karen Uhlenbeck and Bob Williams, Michael Van Pelt, Judy Vee, Sally Walsh, Jen Ping Wang, Carol Watchler, Carol Weiss and Chares Shimalla, Gena and Larry Whitney, Lauren Williams, James Wydareny, Larry and Elizabeth Yermack, and Aparna and Farooq Zama.



Next *Skylights* Deadline:
September 18, 2024
Submissions due for the
October 2024
ISSUE