



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.

Nov. 3, *When Rights Lead to Wrongs*

UU principles and values affirm everyone's unique and individual voice in the democratic process, and yet so often those voices endorse positions and policies that we strongly oppose. How do we live in that tension of endorsing values that, when expressed, create a world that seems to us to be less and less beloved? This general topic was selected by Dunbar Birnie and Louise Senior who placed the winning bid on the "Pick a Sermon Topic" item in the 2023 Fellowship Auction. Thank you Dunbar and Louise!

Additionally, this service will include our annual *Notes to the Dead* ritual, led by our Evergreen Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. Thank you Evergreen CUUPS!

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: Courtney Orlando

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

Nov. 5, 7 p.m., *Election Night Vesper Service*

Before the returns come in, join together for a peaceful service of prayer, silence, and song. Finding strength, clarity, and connection among one another, we'll join as one in lighting candles of hope for our country and future as we await the results.

Worship Leader: Revs. Bill Neely & Jennifer Kelleher **Worship Associate: Isabela Morales**

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

Nov. 10, *Art as Activism*

Art has long made courageous claims about where things stand and prophetic claims about where things are going. In times of transition and uncertainty, these claims can provide the vision that motivates our faithful efforts to create change. What is the shared language of art and activism, and how can we share in its voices? This service will also include an observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance, led by our Rainbow Ministry.

Worships Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: Drake Baer

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

Nov. 17 *What's in a Hymn?*

What a joy to experience a wider perspective from our extraordinary hymns, which can often be overshadowed in the midst of our dynamic hours of worship. *Hymn Sings* are a chance to focus completely upon your role as congregants and the crucial role your singing adds to our services each week. Participants in our *Hymn Sing* will include the Bell Choir, the Adult Choir, a small Children's Ensemble, and of course, **YOU!**

What would make the hour on November 17 come alive is for *members of the congregation to email Marjorie* with their favorite hymn(s) so that we can experience how specific hymns have become beloved to us. Please participate in this service by sending Marjorie an email marjmusic@verizon.net with your choice of hymn(s).

Worship Leaders: Margie Herman

Worship Associate: TBA

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

Nov. 24, *Greater than the Sun,*

When many gather in love, bringing gifts of care and kindness for one another, a bounteous feast that nourishes all can

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be created. Such is the case spiritually in our congregation each week, and materially this week when we invite everyone to bring canned goods and nonperishable food items to worship to help stock the community food pantries of *Arm in Arm* in Mercer County. This is our annual, all-ages “Gather and Give” Thanksgiving service of story, song, and fun.

Worship Leader: Revs. Bill Neely & Jennifer Kelleher
Worship Associate : TBA
Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

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.

The Good News

The Good News, Rev. Bill Neely

In 1903, the Unitarian minister Rev. Edward Everett Hale, then Chaplain of the US Senate, was asked if, in his role, he prayed for the senators. He replied, “No, I look at the Senators and pray for the country.”

Rev. Hale would be praying with extra vigor today, and not just in response to the senators. Dysfunction in our political system guides every level of government. Division is sown and promoted as a method to gain and hold onto power. What one side advocates for is automatically opposed by the other, and good people, elected to office with the best of intentions, find themselves in a system that snuffs out compromise and the shared pursuit of the common good. This leaves space for opportunists who serve self above country. And the media, knowing which narratives sell, breathlessly feed us outrage and contempt.

It does indeed seem like it’s time to pray, with vigor, for the country; to pray that we can rise above the vitriol of today; that we can speak with, to, and about people with whom we disagree with respect; that we can remember everyone’s basic integrity and freedom; that we’ll know that while we’ll vote in different ways, we’re ultimately all interconnected. Our UU values encourage us to lean toward these better angels of our nature that encourage us to be good neighbors and generous citizens. Our UU values ask a lot of us sometimes, perhaps never more so than during hotly contested elections of great and lasting importance to the country and the world. And yet it’s in times like these that our values have their greatest strength for they allow us to respond to the ills of today’s toxic climate with words and deeds that bring hope, love, justice, and joy to life.

Our practice of these values, especially in a tense and suspicious public square, won’t fix everything overnight. However, they will allow us to engage in ways that build something better for those to come. And they will help us avoid contributing to the manufactured divisions and political diseases of this day. Word by word, exchange by exchange, vote by vote, we can not only pray for the country, but actively build a better one by practicing our values among neighbor, stranger, and especially political opponent. We can make our corner of the public square more respectful, less reactive, and more open, and like the sun rising each morning, that light will warm more and more people, every day.

November Spiritual Theme -- Wealth 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 *Wealth* this month are:

“I’ve been making a list of the things they don’t teach you at school. They don’t teach you how to love somebody. They don’t teach you how to be famous. They don’t teach you how to be rich or how to be poor. They don’t teach you how to walk away from someone you don’t love any longer. They don’t teach you how to know what’s going on in someone else’s mind. They don’t teach you what to say to someone who’s dying. They don’t teach you anything worth knowing.”

— Neil Gaiman, *The Sandman*, Vol. 9: The Kindly Ones

*Where did you receive your most memorable lesson about wealth?
What was the message you received?*

“The Seven Social Sins are: Wealth without work. Pleasure without conscience. Knowledge without character. Commerce without morality. Science without humanity. Worship without sacrifice. Politics without principle.”

— Frederick Lewis Donaldson, Sermon, Westminster Abbey, London; March 20, 1925.

*Can wealth in and of itself be a sin? Can poverty be a sin?
What experiences or messages have shaped your thoughts on this?*

It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, that is poor.

— Seneca

How have your thoughts on wealth and what defines wealth, shaped how you feel about money, time, generosity, etc.? Have these changed over time?

Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend.

— Laertius Diogenes

*How would you spend your time if it was a limitless resource?
Have your thoughts on this changed?*

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

November Membership Series

All are welcome to attend our November Membership Series! On Nov. 3 we’ll explore Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist History. On Nov. 10 we’ll focus on our faith, and especially our congregation, today. And on Nov. 24 we’ll discuss what Membership in UU Princeton means and how one goes about joining. All sessions are from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. in the John Murray Room. Come to all three or drop-in as you’re able, and current members as well as newcomers are welcome at each program. No sign-up needed!

**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=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIrUVBMQT09)
[pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIrUVB](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIrUVBMQT09)
[MQT09](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXIrUVBMQT09)



Joys and Sorrows

Upcoming memorial services:

The service for Fansie Connelly is scheduled for Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 2pm in Channing Hall.

The service for Bob Williams is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 11am in Channing Hall.

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

Conscious Communication

Would you like to improve upon your skills for communicating with family and community? On **Sunday, November 10, 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



This Thanksgiving,
Help hungry families set the table!

Thanksgiving Staples:

- Stuffing mix
- Canned green beans
- Canned corn
- Canned sweet potatoes or yams
- Poultry seasoning
- Salt and pepper
- Cream of chicken soup
- Gravy mix (no jars or cans, please)
- Ground cinnamon
- No cranberry sauce, please

We receive several pallets from the food bank

To schedule a pick-up or drop-off contact
Volunteer Coordinator Shariq Marshall.
609-396-9355 ext. 21 • shariqm@arminarm.org

Bonus Item Ideas:

- Vegetable oil
- Salad dressing
- French's fried onions
- Brown sugar
- Vanilla extract
- Pudding mix
- Marshmallows

No glass containers, please.

Please remember to check the
expiration date on all donations.

*Thank you for partnering with Arm In Arm to
help neighbors in need this Thanksgiving!*



**Please bring your food donations to UUCP on Sunday
Nov10, 17 or 24 – Stay to help sort the goods after the
Service on November 24!**

Questions? Contact Louise Senior, DrLSenior@gmail.com

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*



*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.*

Children and Youth Ministry

What a wonderful return to our Children and Youth Ministry program year! We have oriented and expressed our gratitude to a total of 27 volunteers who will serve as leaders and assistants in our classrooms and/or guide our youth group as advisers. We have welcomed children ages two through eighteen into our broad range of activities. We are providing gatherings for children in Pre-K/Kindergarten, 1st-4th Grades, 5th-8th Grades, 7th-9th Grade OWL and YoUUth Group. Children and Youth Ministry is an essential part of congregational life. Here our children may find trusted, caring adults to look to for support and kindness, especially so in a time when schools and society are not always supportive and kind. You can learn more about our programs on our website: <https://www.uuprinceton.org/faithdev/children-youth-ministry-programs/>

Registration is FREE and required for all children and youth. It may be completed through this form or scanning the QR Code:

<https://forms.gle/i6F4GqFes1B1gKAz5>



Please contact me, Rev. Jennifer, Assistant Minister, for support choosing the best learning experience for your child(ren). jennifer@uuprinceton.org.

November 2024	
Sunday, November 3	Gatherings by age group. <i>Daylight savings ends. Fall back one hour.</i> OWL Session 4: 10:30 am-12:00 pm at UU Princeton
Sunday, November 10	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 5: 10:30 am-12:00 pm at UU Princeton
Sunday, November 17	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 6: 10:30 am-12:00 pm at UU Princeton
Sunday, November 24 (Sunday before Thanksgiving)	All ages Gather & Give worship. No gatherings. <i>OWL does not meet today.</i>



Coming Up...December Holiday Festivities!!!

In December we have multiple opportunities for our children, youth and adults to join in on our festivities!

* **“Simple, Fun” Skit - “THE LATKE WHO COULDN’T STOP SCREAMING,”** adapted from the book by Lemony Snickett.

For this year’s Hanging of the Greens worship, we will again partner with our music ministry on a combined skit and songs. This year’s skit honors our UU values of pluralism, transformation and love.

We’ll have a run through after service on Sunday, December 8 with our “show” on Sunday, December 15 during our annual Hanging of the Greens service. Two casts are needed, and roles are suited for children, youth and adults comfortable with script reading. We hope you’ll join the “drama.”

* **Nativity Pageant - Christmas Eve**
Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00pm



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This is an “on the spot” pageant without speaking parts, suitable for our youngest to our more senior members. We are seeking shepherds, angels, wise people and more. Do join us for this tradition of pageantry, reflection, and carols.

*Be on the lookout for emails later in November/early December
with sign-ups for all of the above activities.*

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

Recent Books/Stories Used in “Wonder & Wisdom”

September 22 - [The Water Bearer’s Garden](#), by Betsy Hill Williams, adapted.

September 29 - *Does Earth Feel?* by Marc Majewski and *Greta & the Giants* by Zoë Tucker

October 6 - *Room on the Rug* by Lauren Wyeth, adapted.

October 13 - *The Purple Puffy Coat* by Maribeth Boelts & Daniel Duncan

UU HISTORY- CLARA BARTON - Part A Her Early Life By Carl H. Haag

When Clara Barton Lived in Hightstown, NJ

Everybody knows Clara Barton. Historians have written books about her life. However, scarcely anyone mentions her life in Hightstown. I learned about it accidentally when I went to the town to find out where the large Universalist church had once stood. By good fortune I drove by the headquarters of the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society on Main St. Not only did they have all the historical records of the former church, they had a booklet about Clara Barton, which is the basis for this article. Carl

Clara Barton was born on Christmas Day, 1821, in North Oxford, MA. She was the youngest of five children, and born ten years after the next youngest. Her father, Capt. Stephen Barton, had served on the Western frontier, “fighting the Indians.” He was a farmer, but influential in politics from the local level to the state legislature.

Clara was a morbidly timid child. Her sisters taught her how to read and spell as soon as she could talk. Her brothers took her out to the barn where she learned how to feed the animals and take care of them. The whole family sat around the fireplace in the winter and listened to their father spin wild tales of his war days and how the Huguenots had been driven out of the area by the Indians. Clara also heard stories about their Universalist church in the village, which had been started during the Revolutionary War.

Clara started school at age four. Her two brothers involved her in their rough-and-tumble sports to overcome her shyness. When she was eleven, brother David fell from the ridgepole in the barn and was seriously injured. Clara took over his care, following doctor’s orders. As David got worse, the doctor said it was hopeless, gave up on him, and no longer visited. But not Clara. She told David he was going to get well — and she stayed with him for two years until he was. Clara then felt lost and lonely.

Her spirits rose as she took on their hired man as a patient when he came down with smallpox. As smallpox spread in their town, she cared for more and more people. Even when she caught the dreaded disease, she recovered quickly and went back to nursing others.

A very unusual event occurred when Clara was in her teens. A visitor named Fowler, who was on a lecture tour, stayed at the Bartons’ house. He was a leading proponent of phrenology and studied Clara, saying that she was sensitive but bold in serving others. He stated: “She had all the qualities of a teacher. As soon as her age will permit, give her a school to teach.” Her parents set about making this prophecy a reality. At the age of 16, Clara assumed duties at her first school, number 9 in her town.

Her first class had 40 students who ranged from pre-school to late teens. In fact the man who was the previous teacher had been driven out by the big boys. The students were surprised when they came into the school room to see a woman sitting there who was not as tall as many of them. Clara was soft-spoken, but during recess when some of the big boys began lording it over other boys, she challenged them to a horseshoe game and won — thanks to her brothers’ earlier coaching. She held her own in every game and this little schoolmarm became known for her excellent discipline.

Barton taught in Massachusetts for 10 years. During the summers, she worked at her brother Stephen’s cotton mill, both in the office and at a loom. She decided to give up teaching and leave the tensions in her family home. Using the money she had saved, she entered the Liberal Institute of Clinton in Clinton, NY, a Universalist Seminary for young men and women.

Part B- to be continued.

Adult Faith Development

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.

Short Story Hour - Vonnegut

Join Rev. Bill for the reading and discussion of a short story by the great contemporary writer and Unitarian Universalist Kurt Vonnegut. The next program is on Friday, Nov. 22 at 12 noon. Keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. No sign-up needed

Practicing Gratitude

The path to living a life of deeper gratitude can be realized through some simple practices that are easily engaged. Join Rev. Bill for an exploration of gratitude practices that can expand our awareness of the grace, kindness, and beauty that can fill our days. We'll gather in the lower lounge on Sundays, Nov. 3 and 10, from 9 - 9:45 a.m. Please sign up at www.uuprinceton.org by clicking the "SignUpGenius" tab and finding this program.

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 for our next discussions of member-chosen books. All are welcome.

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

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

Here's our reading list for the year:

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 Days*, The Author's Guild, Margret 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

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>



Women's Alliance

**Lunch and Program – Thursday November 21, 2024, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Founder's Room
In-person Only**

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

Our speaker will be Marjorie Herman, UU Princeton's beloved music director since January 2006. Marjorie will be retiring at the end of this calendar year, so we are especially fortunate at having her join us. She will focus on highlights from the many rich experiences in her nineteen year tenure, and illuminate how each has affected her both personally and professionally. The Women's Alliance invites you to come help celebrate Marjorie's many contributions to the musical life at UU Princeton.

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 up 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 bjaswood@gmail.com.



UU Princeton's Social Justice Ministries are organized into six major areas, with several affiliated activities, all listed below. To become involved in any of these areas please contact the person listed or the church office. If you have an idea for a new area of focus, please contact Rev. Bill (Bill@UUPrinceton.org).

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.

Public Action Issues – promotes advocacy actions, through support of UU Faith Action, legislative actions, and other activities. Michael Loney for UU Faith Action 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

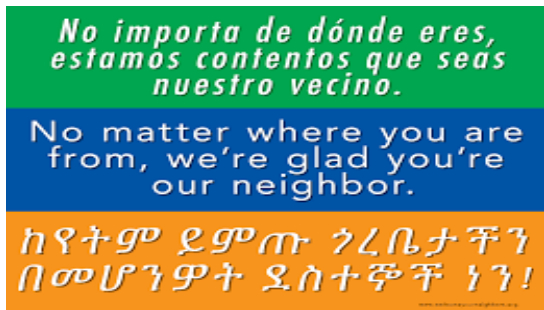
Review Committee Chair: Gareth Funka-Lea, Carol Allen (Liaison to Coalition for Peace Action)

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)



Donate Holiday Cards to TASK

Bring in those extra holiday cards you don't need. We will sort, package, and deliver to TASK during November & December. **Collection Box** is in Robinson Lounge. Thank you!
– UU Princeton TASK Team

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.

**DONATIONS NEEDED:
2025 CALENDARS &
RECENT MAGAZINES**

We're again collecting **colorful calendars and high-quality magazines**. **Donation Deadline** is Martin Luther King Sunday, **January 19th**. **COLLECTION BOXES** are in Robinson Lounge, under the coat racks. **Note:** Please clip off any magazine address labels. We'll deliver our donations to **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)** during December and January. Colorful calendars are a lovely way to brighten a room and are greatly appreciated. Magazines are fun, informative, and used in ESL classes and other tutoring at TASK. Many thanks!
-- The UU Princeton TASK Team

Join Us! UU Princeton Gather and Give 2024: Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors
Please bring your holiday food donations to assist our neighbors in need on Sunday Nov 10 17, or Nov 24. Then plan to join the fun and make a difference in our neighbor's lives after the service on Sunday November 24, 11:45 to ~1 pm. We will use our 'helping hands and loving hearts' to sort and pack food donations in Robinson Lounge. Arm in Arm's staff will come collect our donations the following day. If none of these Sunday time slots work for you, please contact Louise Senior to arrange an alternative appointment: Caring4neighbors@uuprinceton.org or DrLSenior@gmail.com. **The need is great – each month brings more visits to the Arm in Arm pantry than the month before. This year we are explicitly collecting holiday foods -- we will bag then up as specific 'fixings' bags. See the list of most-wanted food donations below. In addition, long lasting fresh vegetables and fruit are also wel-**

Stuffing Mix	Vegetable Oil
Canned yams/ sweet potatoes	Salad Dressing
Canned corn	Canned green beans
<u>Salt and Pepper Shakers (new, filled)</u>	Cream of Chicken Soup
Ground Cinnamon	French's-type Fried Onions
Gravy mix (no glass please!)	Brown Sugar
Poultry Seasoning	Vanilla Extract
Pudding Mix	Marshmallows

come. Great choices to donate are citrus fruits (especially oranges and lemons), winter squash, potatoes, onions and sweet potatoes.
Most wanted items:

PLEASE do not bring Cranberry sauce or cranberry jelly – the Food Bank provides plenty!

I'd like to help more! What can I do? If you'd like to help out at the Trenton or Princeton pantries, they would appreciate it! Contact Volunteer Coordinator Shariq Marshall at shariqm@arminarm.org to find out how you can help (he's a great guy!). Now that Arm in Arm is 'on the move' with mobile deliveries, help is also needed outside during food distributions.
Questions? Contact Louise Senior at DrLSenior@gmail.com or text her at 609 240 6543.

Gracenotes

Marjorie's Special Events

As most of you have heard by now, Marjorie (I) will be retiring from my position as Director of Music at the end of December. This is a bittersweet decision to be sure, but as I turn 80 later this month, I feel it's time to widen my perspective, be a citizen of the world, and even have some fun along the way. It's been an incredibly rich couple of decades, and I'm sure our Music Ministry will be enlivened and grow further with the new DM. I want to invite you to two special events during which I will happily do what I've done so many times here at UU Princeton: engage everyone in the experience of experiencing music as a bridge to uplift a worthy text, the two together becoming exalted by their coupling.

Women's Alliance – Thursday, November 14

I feel honored to have been invited to be the guest speaker at the 11/14 gathering of our extraordinary Women's Alliance. My inclination, which is what I've been requested to recount, will focus on some highlights of some of the rich experiences from my tenure here, and to explain how each has affected me both personally and professionally.

“What's in a Hymn” -- Sunday, November 17

Through the years, it has been my pleasure to be granted the space of an entire worship Sunday to provide a wider perspective on our wide-ranging hymns that are routinely and specifically placed each Sunday. These **Hymn Sings** are a chance to focus completely upon *your role as congregants* and the crucial participation your singing adds to our services each Sunday. In fact, your singing of these wondrous gems gives us a more abstract, but insightful commentary upon the service theme that I feel is paramount to the overall effect of the hour.

What would make the hour on November 14 come alive is for *members of the congregation to email me* with their favorite hymn(s) so that we can experience in real time how certain hymns have become beloved to us.

We'll also spotlight a few of the creators of our hymns. Who are these composers? What is the source of the texts they have chosen to set? The hour will include the Bell Choir, the Adult Choir, a small Children's Ensemble, and of course: **YOU!**

So please participate in this service by sending me an email with your choice of hymn(s) with a brief description of what the hymn(s) has meant to you. My email: marjmuse@verizon.net.

Thanks for considering.....

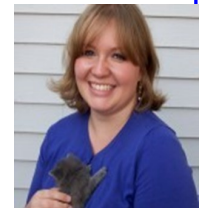
Warm thoughts,
Marjorie

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 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



Search for New Music Director

Our beloved and talented Music Director, Margie Herman, is retiring at the end of December. We have rejoiced in and been inspired by many, many wonderful All Music Sundays and other musical events led by Margie throughout her 18 years with us. Even as we savor these last few weeks with Margie, a search committee is preparing for her successor. The committee consists of Candus Hedberg, Chair; Drake Baer; Jeanne DeVoe; Rev. Bill Neely; Joelle Piercy, Bell Choir Director; and Audrey Pico. The committee has interviewed the Adult Choir and the Bell Choir for their recommendations on qualities and skills desired in our new director. The job description is available on the UU Princeton website and has been posted in suitable national and local sites. The committee hopes to introduce our new director in February 2025.

Rainbow Ministry

Join UUCP Rainbow Ministry for Our Annual TDOR Vigil:

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Please join us **Friday, November 22nd, at 7PM in Channing Hall**: members of Rainbow Ministry will read the names of those trans siblings we have lost since November 2023, and honor their lives through reflection, prayer, music and ceremony.

Questions?

Email rainbowministry@uuprinceton.org

CONFERENCE FOR PEACE AT UUCP

The annual Conference for Peace, of which our congregation is a co-sponsor, will be held in FAHS theater on Sunday, November 17 from 1:30-4:30. Speakers include experts on military spending, organizing for peace, and abolishing nuclear weapons. To sign up, go to peacecoalition.org or call Coalition for Peace Action at 609-924-5022. Questions: Contact Carol Allen at carolkallen@msn.com.

NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT SATURDAY, November 9th 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.

We meet on the second Saturday of every month. Keep an eye out in all your UUCP 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 look forward to seeing you, just as you are.

Signup Genius will be on the UU Princeton website. Contact us if you have any questions (picoaudrey@yahoo.fr).

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



Ministry for the Earth

Black Friday & Cyber Monday... STYROFOAM SUNDAY!

Sunday December 8th in Robinson Lounge before and after service UU Princeton members are invited to drop off Black Friday & Cyber Monday Styrofoam for responsible upcycling. **Please adhere strictly to the collection guidelines: ONLY CLEAN, DRY, SOLID BLOCKS of packing styrofoam accepted** (the kind that breaks into little balls when split). No food containers, No egg cartons, No packing peanuts, No packing tape or labels, No sheets of flexible foam.

This is a UU Princeton members only collection event, but feel free to bring in foam from friends and family. Please contact Earthministry@uuprinceton.org if you would be willing to help with UU Princeton's first styrofoam collection event open to the public tentatively planned for February 2025.

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We Thank Our Planned Givers!

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. We deeply thank everyone who has included UU Princeton in their Planned Giving:

Beth Behrend and Robert Eaton, Linda Benson, Sharon Copeland and Dave Hoffman, Meg Cox Leone, Kathy Fedorko and Peter Macholdt, Cindy and Gareth Funka-Lea, Amanda and Bill Gillum, Rev. Carol and Carl Haag, Ray and Beth Nichols, Michele Ochsner, Binnie Thom, Diane and Aaron Torrance, and Jen Ping Wang

We also honor and are grateful for those whose bequests have been received, as well as those who have specifically supported our Endowment with designated gifts:

Carol Allen, Judith Hilton Alpert, Hilton Anderson, Charlie and Mary Ascher, Rene Braden, George Briggs and Barbara Pitcher, Ethel Brummer, Robert Burke, Vicky Campbell, Helen Clayton, Stephanie Craib, David Davis, Marilyn Durbin, George and Sally Easter, Ruth Folinsbee, Dorothy Johnson, Annemarie Knopf, June Heald, Patricia Hite, Annemarie Knoph, Robert Levine, Vicki Leyton, Nanette Mensing, Edward Morehouse Mary Mikkelsen, Greg Nagy, Beth and Ray Nichols, Elaine and Raj Nigam, Frank Opton, Carl Pfeifer, Edward Rey, Elizabeth Reed, Philip Reed, Helen Reichard, Margaret Rogers, Yvonne Smith, Marie and Robert Sturken, Chris and Jim Sturm, Clotilde Treves, Lillian B Waicule, and Ellie Whitney.

For more information on Planned Giving at UU Princeton, or to update our records, please email Rev Bill at Bill@UUPrinceton.org.

Names & Numbers

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Jorge Garcia Salas

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Susan Langkafel

susan@uuprinceton.org
Administrator ext. 110

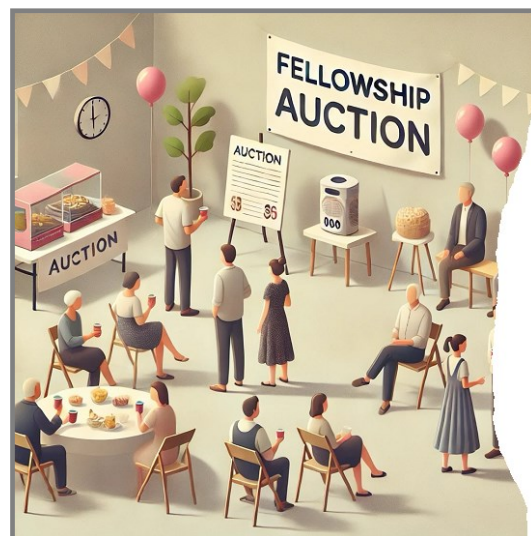
Office Hours: Varies
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FELLOWSHIP AUCTION 2025 CELEBRATION PARTY

MARCH 1, 2025

PLAN YOUR DONATION AND MARK
YOUR CALENDAR TO JOIN THE
CELEBRATION PARTY

AUCTION STARTS ON-LINE
FEBRUARY 21-MARCH 1, 2025

Next *Skylights* Deadline:

November 18, 2024

**Submissions due for the
December 2024**

ISSUE

skylights@uuprinceton.org