



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF PRINCETON**

Skylights *newsletter*



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.

December 1, *Gracenotes*

“Grace” has many definitions and connotations. It can mean elegance or poise. It can be an unearned sacred gift. It can be a brief expression of gratitude before a meal. Indeed, grace has many notes, but appreciation sounds through them all. In this service we will explore and express graceful appreciation.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: Jeanne DeVoe

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist; Special Musicians TBA

December 8, *Life as a Prayer*

This Sunday, we learn to listen to the great mystery that resides among us, leaning into a practice of communing with the sacred. Together we ask, how is this listening a practice of prayer to those of our faith, residing alongside a wealth of sacred practices? How might we create a way of living that does not only include sporadic prayer, but is instead itself a prayer?

Rev. Jane Bennett Smith has served as the minister of Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist since 2019. She began her journey into Unitarian Universalism ten years ago at the UU Congregation of Princeton, a period she remembers with great joy. *Rev. Jane* lives in Catonsville, Maryland, with her beloved husband Eric.

Worship Leader: Rev. Jane Bennett Smith

Worship Associate: TBA

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

December 11, 7 pm. *Honoring Loss at This Season: A Vesper Service*

Joyful festivities abound this time of year. For those of us missing loved ones, the shiny brightness may bring up mixed emotions as we grieve and mourn. Join the Pastoral Associates, Music Ministry, and Revs. Jennifer and Bill for a reflective service that honors love, memory, and loss.

Worships Leader: Revs. Bill Neely and Jennifer Kelleher

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist

December 15, *The Hanging of the Greens*

Join us for our annual, all-ages, fun and festive *Hanging of the Greens* service! There'll be songs, a skit, and plenty of merriment as we adorn Channing Hall for the season. Bring your friends and family!

Worships Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: TBA

Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist; Oompah Band, Buzz Herman, Director

December 22, *Turning Toward the Light*

This winter solstice weekend is one in which the days gradually start getting longer and the nights start slowly getting shorter. What can this seasonal flow teach us about rest and wakefulness? About **preparation** and action? About balance and rhythm?

(Worship Services continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Worship Leaders: Margie Herman **Worship Associate: TBA**
Music: Marjorie Herman; UU Princeton Adult Choir; Sue den Outer, Pianist

December 24, Christmas Eve Services: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

5 p.m. - *An All-Age Christmas Eve Pageant*

Bring the family and join your friends for our Christmas Eve Pageant. All are welcome in this very multi-generational service as we look toward Christmas with joy and wonder.

7 p.m. - *Christmas Eve Carols and Candles*

Gather to hear again the traditional Christmas story with candles, music, silence, and words. In peace, hope, and with one another, let us embrace the meanings and miracles of this season.

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

December 29, *Greeting the New Year*

A new beginning happens with every ending. A new year, then, is no different from an opportunity at any new beginning for us. But what does this new beginning mean for us, especially as we move toward a time of uncertainty and anxiety?

Worship Leader: Pauline E. Nijander, Seminarian **Worship Associate : TBA**
Music: Marjorie Herman; Sue den Outer, Pianist; Special Musicians: TBA

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.

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

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=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXlrUVBMQT09)
[pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXlrUVB](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXlrUVBMQT09)
[MQT09](https://zoom.us/j/94163305308?pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXlrUVBMQT09)



December Spiritual Theme -- Vulnerability 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 *Vulnerability* this month are:

“Vulnerability is about showing up and being seen. It's tough to do that when we're terrified about what people might see or think.” - Brené Brown

What do you think people see when they look at you?

How does this compare with how you view yourself?

Consider these scenarios: a stranger sitting across from you on a train and/or a member of the congregation who you know casually.

“I'm not always in a full face of make-up! That's actually one of the things I like about make-up – that you can strip it away and show your vulnerability.” - Dita Von Teese

What “makeup” do you use to hide your vulnerability? When are you able to remove it?

“I think one's relationship with one's vulnerability is a very delicate and precious relationship. Most people try to hide, disguise that vulnerability, and in doing that, you, I think, diminish a great source of power.” - Philip Schultz

How can being vulnerable increase your power?

“Some people should not be allowed to see beyond your surface. Seeing your vulnerability is a privilege, not meant for everyone.” - Yasmin Mogahed

When is it okay to hide your vulnerabilities?

The Good News, Rev. Bill Neely

The Good News

One day several Decembers ago I was in a shopping mall where they had a real-life Santa taking pictures with little ones. I stopped to watch for a moment, preparing myself for adorable displays of cute holiday goodness. I expected kids too excited to speak. I wanted a moment of magic witnessed by glowing parents whose eyes shone brighter than the Christmas lights. I was ready for glee.

Instead I watched a meltdown so epic that I'm sure that Santa still has ringing in his ears. The kiddo was just not up for it. Maybe too tired? Maybe too hungry? Maybe too many eyes on her? Maybe a little bit of all that and more. Whatever the case, that little girl in her beautiful Christmas dress hollered so loud and wriggled so energetically that her visit was very, very short. She squirmed out of Santa's lap while Santa's helpers tried to keep her from crashing to the floor. Mom rushed up and quickly ushered her away. Santa laughed, perhaps a little nervously, and still managed a robust “Merry Christmas!” as a decidedly un-merry little one was ushered away by her mom.

Being a parent who has been in those situations (every parent has been in those situations), I assume some fresh air for the little one followed. Probably some food. Eventually a nap. Meltdowns just happen; there's nothing to do but get through them. And at least in this case, this meltdown probably gifted the mom with a great holiday story for years to come. But I realized how common the sentiment of the little girl is during the holidays. We don't all throw a fit and scream in public (or hopefully we don't), but we do get overwhelmed. We forget to eat well, rest, and take care of ourselves. Many eyes are on our gifts, our parties, and our outfits. There's a lot of pressure. The month of festive cheer can be overbearing sometimes.

We'd do well to practice daily what sometimes helps little ones break out of meltdowns: eat well, rest often, and take a break during the busy times. Maybe go outside and get a change of scenery. Listen to our favorite music. Walk a dog. Pet a cat. If we take these breaks before the moment becomes too much, they can help us weather the chaotic, overbearing times with more patience and grace. We can be a little more centered when there is too much to do; a little more balanced when so much has to happen.

I think December will always be December: beautiful, but busy. Meaningful, but also manic. Terrific, but also tense. And so maybe we can change how we are during that month by remembering to take care of ourselves and encouraging our friends and families to do the same. Maybe we can practice wellness every day to make the month of peace, joy, and sometimes a bit too much, even more of a gift than it is.

Joys and Sorrows

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

The Inner Work of Age Conversation Group

Join us in the New Year for a conversation group that focuses on the personal and spiritual development of becoming an Elder. We will use the book, *The Inner Work of Age, Shifting from Role to Soul* by Connie Zweig as inspiration for our sessions. The book was written as a guide to help get past inner obstacles and embrace hidden spiritual gifts of age.

January-June 2025 we will meet the 2nd Thursday of the month, from 1:00pm-2:30pm. Meetings will be held in person at UU Princeton and we may also have the option to join via Zoom. Our first meeting will be on January 9.

Please RSVP to jennifer@uuprinceton.org and when confirming your interest let us know if you would like us to order the book for you.



*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.*

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.

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 Winter Holiday Edition



In addition to our regular rotation of children and youth gatherings, we have a number of fun and festive events this December. Whether you love arts & crafts, the annual Hanging of the Greens, a bit of drama, carol singing, dressing up for our nativity pageant and/or just enjoying the general merriment - we hope you'll sign up to take part in one or more!

Saturday, December 14 - Holiday Party: this year's holiday party, including opportunities to make ornaments to decorate our UU Princeton Christmas Tree will be on the evening of **Saturday, December 14**. Please check out the Celebrations Ministry announcements for more details.

Sunday, December 15 - Our Annual Hanging of the Greens Service which will include...

* **“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 on Sunday, December 15, 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. And do not worry, *you will not miss helping make the garland of greens if you take part in the skit.*

We invite you to sign-up if you or your child/teen would like a speaking part. Being part of the cast is also committing to **a script run through after service on Sunday, December 8**. Roles are suited for children, youth and adults comfortable with script reading. Note: there is no memorization of lines! We hope this year you'll join the “drama.” **Sign-up here:** <https://forms.gle/Cv5SWACydcF7XguFA>

Youth who play brass instruments are invited to join the Hanging of the Greens Oompah Band. Contact Margie Herman, Music Director: marjmuse@verizon.net

Tuesday, December 24 - Worship services at 5pm and 7:00pm

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

We will have two Christmas Eve services, and the Nativity Pageant will take place at the earlier service at 5:00pm 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. **Sign-up here or through QR code:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-53340914-christmas>



December 2024	Join us for our Sunday morning Programming
Sunday, December 1	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 7 & 8 (double-session): 10:00am-12:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Washington Crossing, (UUCWC) Titusville, NJ Includes a parent/caregiver session from ~11:30am-12:30pm
Sunday, December 8	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 9/Holiday Party: 10:00am-12:00pm at UUCWC
Sunday, December 15	Hanging of the Green all-ages worship. No gatherings.
Sunday, December 22	Gatherings by age group. <i>OWL does not meet today. Youth are invited to join us in worship.</i>
Sunday, December 29	All welcome in worship. No gatherings.

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 & youth participating in our programming, and may be completed at the link below or scanning the QR Code: <https://forms.gle/oi8amAeKHkQUJEh67>

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

With abiding love, Rev. Jennifer

Recent Books/Stories Used in “Wonder & Wisdom”

October 20: Johnny Appleseed, inspired by the writings of Randy Hammer in *Everyone A Butterfly: Forty Sermons For Children*

October 27: Beetlejuice & Universalism, Muddy Children: <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys/session2/muddy-children>

November 10: Incorporated an exercise on Triangle Breathing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA7iQBWXSQI>

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

When Clara Barton Lived in Hightstown, NJ

Her beloved mother died, and Clara faced uncertainty about her future. It was resolved when a close friend at Clinton, Mary Norton of East Windsor NJ, invited Clara to join her and her Universalist family. She accepted and found herself near Hightstown, which was basically a farm settlement dealing in tomatoes and potatoes. It had a general store, a railroad station, a Baptist Church, and a Universalist Church — this church attracted P. T. Barnum and Horace Greeley who visited frequently to take part in its religious services.

In October 1851, Clara Barton travelled to Hightstown and moved in with Mr. and Mrs. Norton, with only Charley [21] and Mary [16] at home, the other four siblings having left. One day Mr. North said to her, “If thee could teach at our winter school Miss Clara, thee could find plenty to do.” He added, “these farmer boys...are men grown, and sometimes rough.” There were about 40 students who had had only men as teachers. Clara accepted and went to her new job on Oct. 23, 1851.

She and Mary were not noticed by the square-shouldered men in a sweaty game of ball. When everyone was seated, Mary, who had left the school the year before, took each man by the hand up to meet their new teacher. When Mary introduced Hart Bodine, Mary said, “He is a good boy, but he has the reputation of being a great rogue in school, yet I think he will do better now.”

Clara soon was put to the test. When she first spotted trouble, the gentle young woman went to the defiant Bodine lad and pleasantly asked him to assist her in carrying out all the whips. Hart went up uneasily and followed her outside with all the whips. The former teacher had used them often, and both Hart and his classmates wondered what Barton would do with all of them at once.

She asked him to break them up in little pieces, and then took him by the hand and said she would never need them, for he was one of the big boys and she would depend on him to keep order in the school. Hart was overwhelmed, and he became a model of obedience in the classroom. Clara said, “Hart was ever at my hand, to do the smallest bidding, never leaving the school until I left at night, and the first to greet me in the morning.” Again, she had won the respect of the students by playing ball and other games with them and by her ability to know each of the sixty students and by her genuine interest in their progress.

However, where she lived was not pleasant. Mr. Norton ruled it with an iron hand and expected everybody to obey. Clara Barton was a woman of 29 and never had any free time. It got so intolerable, that Clara decided to leave, go to Bordentown, and try to find a job.

By July 1, 1852 Clara had convinced local officials to give her a teaching certificate to teach older students who had outgrown the private elementary academies. It was an unusual school because it was publicly funded. Up to then, only paupers had been provided such schools. It was the first public school in New Jersey!

Miss Barton was extremely successful and in a year the school had grown many fold. However, Clara Barton was relieved of her duties and replaced by a man. Soon after her demotion, Clara left for Washington, D.C.

Her seven months in Hightstown served to release her from the past and as a springboard to the new ideas that spear-headed her enormous endeavor that made her a world class humanitarian. Part Two will be all about what happened next.

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, Dec. 13 at 12 noon. Keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. No sign-up needed

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.

January 12, *There, There, Tommy Orange*

Here's our reading list for the rest of year:

March 16, *The United States Governed by Six Hundred*

Mystic Meditations

The mystics lead us to a sense of the divine that often drifts and soars beyond the bounds of structured religion. The sense is unmediated, experienced, and available to all. Join Rev. Bill for a peaceful and contemplative exploration of meditations and poetry by Rumi, Rabia, Hafiz, Mira, and more as we engage mystic writings together. We'll gather in the lower lounge on Sundays, Dec. 15 and 22, from 9 - 9:45 a.m. Please sign up at www.uuprinceton.org by clicking the "SignUpGenius" tab and finding this program.

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

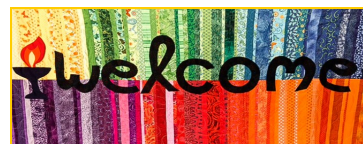
Join Princeton Eats Plants, a vibrant UU Princeton community promoting plant-based living through monthly potluck gatherings. Discover delicious, plant-powered dishes and connect with others passionate about sustainable eating and cruelty-free living. Exchange recipes, share journeys, and forge connections. 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>

Stillness: An Advent Practice with Howard Thurman

Advent is a contemplative season that leads up to Christmas. It's a time for reflection, peace, and often a sense of stillness. Using the modern Christian mystic *Howard Thurman* as our guide, join Rev. Bill and Pauline E. Nijander, Seminarian, for an introduction to Advent and to an original daily meditation series using Thurman's words. We'll gather on Sunday, Dec. 1, from 12 - 12:45 p.m. in the Murray Room. Please sign up on the UU Princeton web site under the *SignUp Genius* tab. All are welcome!



Women's Alliance

**Lunch and Program – Thursday, December 19, 2024
12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Founder's Room**

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 UU Princeton's Seminarian Patricia Hennigan who will discuss *Early Reflections on Hospital Chaplaincy*. Patricia started her first unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, a Level 1 Trauma Center. She will share some early reflections on her experience, particularly as a UU chaplain in a multi-faith environment as well as learnings from providers, patients and their families (respectfully and in compliance with HIPAA regulations).

Patricia Hennigan has been a UU for twenty-five years and a member of UU Princeton for 17 years or so. She is an Aspirant to UU ministry, pursuing a Masters of Divinity at Drew University Theological School in Madison, NJ. 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).

Holiday Cookie Sale– Sundays December 15 & 22

The Women's Alliance will have a scrumptious selection of homemade holiday cookies for sale in Robinson Lounge at the Sunday services on December 15th & 22nd. A wonderful holiday or hostess gift and a bargain at \$15 for a one pound plate festively wrapped and decorated. All proceeds will be used to support organizations that serve women and children

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

Reduce and ReUse Jigsaw Puzzles

The Earth Ministry seeks to enable UU Princeton members to exchange their gently used jigsaw puzzles with other members who have already put together a jigsaw puzzle and are willing to trade one of theirs for one of yours. We suspect that jigsaw “aficionados” are always seeking another one but may be unwilling or unable to buy a new one every time they see one they would like to assemble. So, in keeping with the mantra that reducing and reusing is preferable to buying more stuff, we’d like to facilitate a free exchange of jigsaw puzzles among UU Princeton members. If this idea appeals to you, please contact me to discuss how you can participate. Ray Nichols at RayN412@outlook.com

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.

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

SPRING SALE

Remember to hold onto your unwanted holiday gifts for our annual Spring Sale event scheduled for MAY 2nd - 3rd 2025. The UU Princeton Spring Sale is our largest charitable fundraising event of the church year. **Last year we brought in over \$34k for our social outreach grants to local, non-profit organizations!** This event is so colossal that we start the effort to recruit volunteers well in advance, so expect a tap on the shoulder from our event leaders early in the new year. Please help us make this year’s sale as successful as the last by earmarking your items along with some of your volunteer hours for **Spring Sale 2025!**



Are you working with a non-profit that could benefit from a grant?

Are you actively involved with a local non-profit organization that could benefit from a grant funded by the money we raise at the UU Princeton **Spring Sale**? The grants have typically been \$1,000 to \$3,000. The organization needs to be sponsored by a congregant and the organization will need to fill in an application form that will be provided. We are looking for organizations whose work aligns with our values. Applications are reviewed by our UUCP Outreach Grant Committee.

Request a grant sponsorship form by emailing grants@uuprinceton.org

Gracenotes

December Special Events

Annual Grief Vespers, Wednesday, December 11

It's that time of year when many of us feel particularly overwhelmed by memories of loss. Rev. Jennifer, Rev. Bill, the Music Ministry, and the Pastoral Associates Ministry combine to offer a time of readings, music, candles, and compassion. Whatever discomfort you are experiencing this December, you are invited to partake of this quiet time of inclusion and community.

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, December 15

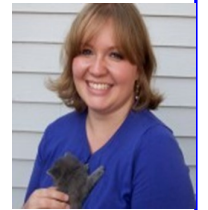
This anticipated ritual is brought to you by our ministers, the CFD Ministry and Oompah Band. Each December, the Oompahs offer a distinctive flare to this time-honored ritual. Brass and woodwind players from our community of musicians come together to ring in the season, and accompany the yearly wreath as it is placed around Channing Hall.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

For several years now, this evening's musical offerings come in two different services: the earlier pageant service, accompanied by carols, and our later, more meditative service in which the story of Christmas is told, accompanied by our extraordinary Bell Choir.

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 community, and bring inspiration to the wider community.



Please join the Evergreen Chapter of the Covenant of UU Pagans for any of our December events:

Full Moon Circle: on December 13th we will gather in the John Murray Room to celebrate Cold Moon Winter Solstice: on Saturday, 12/21 please join us in Channing to welcome back the new baby sun in the deep darkness of the longest night.

Buche Noel: on December 24th our buche noel, taken from the trunk of last year's Yule tree in Channing Hall, will burn in Robinson Lounge

Full Moon and Solstice celebrations begin at 7pm with circle casting at 7:30. Masks are worn out of care for each other when meeting in the close quarters of the John Murray room. Please bring a drum, shaker or even just your keyring to play, and a snack to eat before driving home (for yourself or to share). Those interested in more information can email Jennifer Santos at jsantoscnm@verizon.net or Kate Foster at subligaria8@gmail.com

**NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
SATURDAY, December 14
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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UU Princeton's Family Friendly Holiday Party! Saturday, December 14, 5-8pm @ UU Princeton

Visit the SignUp Genius to RSVP and see full participation details!
RSVP appreciated by December 8
Members and friends of all ages are welcome!

Come join the festivities and have fun! There will be tree-trimming craft stations, a Yankee gift swap for adults, a children's gingerbread house contest fundraiser, holiday caroling & karaoke, and **new this year: Hot Chocolate Bar for all ages** - along with wine, beer, and soft drinks. Donations appreciated. All of this and, of course, our delicious, traditional UU Princeton holiday dinner of spaghetti, salad, and baguettes (meat lovers, vegetarians, and plant-based dieters welcome). Desserts will be fully crowd-sourced so please bring one if you can. Sign up for one of two seatings: 5:15 or 5:45 so we can manage the flow of people and ensure everything will be hot and delicious!

Pretty please with sugar on top, sign up to volunteer and make this evening the best it can be! **Use the same SignUp Genius on the UU Princeton website to RSVP and volunteer.** Thank you for your help and support!

Names & Numbers

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Parish Minister ext. 111

Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

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Assistant Minister ext. 118

Pauline E. Nijander

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Patricia Hennigan

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Marjorie Herman

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Jorge Garcia Salas

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Please call or e-mail.
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office@uuprinceton.org

Web page:

<http://www.uuprinceton.org>



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:

December 16, 2024

Submissions due for the

January 2025

ISSUE

skylights@uuprinceton.org