



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.

Feb. 2, *Small Boat, Big Storms*

Finding peace begins within, but peace can be difficult to even seek, much less practice, when life and the world seem particularly anxious and threatening. Fortunately, the wisdom of the late Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, and other teachers of peace, can help guide us when times are turbulent. How can we grow and maintain our peace when storms abound?

This service will also include a celebration of our newest members! If you share our values and would like help strengthen our congregation by becoming a member, please contact Rev. Bill at Bill@UUPrinceton.org.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: Marybeth Tran

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

Feb. 9, *A Shared Soup-er Bowl*

Celebrate Souper-Bowl Sunday at UU Princeton! Join us for an all-ages service as we experience a shared lesson. By working together, with everyone contributing what they can, a greater good may be achieved. *Please feel free to "beef this up" if you wish.* You are invited to bring your favorite soup, stew, or chili to share after service for a special brunch, with proceeds benefiting our Children & Youth Ministry.

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

Worship Associate: TBA

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

Feb. 16, *Pieces and Patches of Love*

The phrase "perfect love" is often used to describe God's unmarred and unending love for creation. Meanwhile, we less-than-perfect humans co-create a messier and less constant kind of love that guides us toward a good life, even as it regularly challenges and confuses us. Let's explore the kinds of human love that bring meaning and purpose to our days.

Worships Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: Emma Moore

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

Feb. 23, *The Question Box*

An old favorite returns! Instead of a sermon, Revs. Bill and Jennifer will take turns responding to your questions. What is grace? Sin? The meaning of life? Is pineapple really a suitable pizza topping? Ask away! Email us your questions (Bill@UUPrinceton.org and/or Jennifer@UUPrinceton.org) or write them down that morning and we'll answer as many as we can.

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

Worship Associate: TBA

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

The Good News

The Good News, Rev. Bill Neely

June may seem like it's a long way off, but it'll be here before we know it. And with that comes our next opportunity to attend General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). GA occurs every year. Sometimes the gathering is only virtual, but sometimes GA happens in a hybrid model with in-person and virtual options. The 2025 GA is hybrid, with the in-person gathering happening in Baltimore from June 18 – 22.

If you attend GA, you can expect to worship in a huge hall with thousands of other Unitarian Universalists. You'll hear great preaching and wonderful music and experience inventive liturgies that work very well with so many people. You'll be able to attend workshops and lectures on a wide variety of congregational and faith topics: everything from religious education and family ministry to stewardship and finance to social justice and serving the world. Well-known guests from beyond our faith will visit as well, offering speeches and workshops and opportunities for us to branch out in our thinking. And if you enjoy voting and governance, and are a member in good standing of UU Princeton, you may be able to be a delegate from our congregation and participate in the various votes that happen at GA.

GA moves around the country from year to year. Two years ago, it was in Pittsburgh, this year is Baltimore. There is a good chance that the next few in-person GAs will be considerably further away from us, so if you're interested in trying out a GA, this might be a good one to attend. Visit the website below for all you need to know about GA, or feel free to ask me or Rev. Jennifer for our impressions of GA. As the date gets closer, we'll gather our UU Princeton contingent so that we can plan together and connect once we're there. And please let me know if you're attending GA (in-person or virtually) so that we can all check in with each other before and during the event. Go to <https://www.uua.org/ga> for more info, and hope to see you there!

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

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)

Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

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

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.

February Spiritual Theme -- Security
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 *Security* this month are:

“Safety and security don’t just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.” - Nelson Mandela

*Do you feel that children and adults have different needs for security?
 How has your desire or need for security changed over the course of your life?*

“When we allow our fears and insecurities to blind us momentarily, we’re often tempted to make the gate narrower than God does.”
 - Brian Houston, author of *Live Love Lead: Your Best Is Yet to Come*

When have you “narrowed the gate” in response to a fear or insecurity, or in an attempt to provide more safety or security? Looking back, do you agree with your decision?

“One is never afraid of the unknown; one is afraid of the known coming to an end.” - Jiddu Krishnamurti, Indian philosopher

What is your “known” that would be most difficult to have come to an end?

“...no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”
 - Psalms 91:10-12

*Regardless of belief in where the power may come from, do you feel there is a force keeping you safe? Have you ever had a moment when you felt inexplicably protected?
 Or, alternatively, a moment when you felt alone and fully vulnerable?*

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton Relational Covenant

Our covenant affirms a commitment to build loving, healthy, and trusting relationships within our congregation. We make these promises in order to love better, relate more compassionately, and feel the power of our human connections.

Our Promises:

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

Children and Youth Ministry

February 2025: Children and Youth Ministry

Sunday, February 9 - “Souper Bowl Sunday” Fundraising Brunch

You are invited to bring your favorite soup, stew or chili to share after service on Sunday, February 9 for a special brunch with proceeds benefiting our Children & Youth Ministry. Soup not your specialty? We also need breads, bagels and spreads, salad, desserts, beverages and/or your favorite munchies. This will be a fun way to celebrate before the “other Super Bowl” and raise funds for our program. As always, set-up and clean-up help is greatly appreciated. We hope families might volunteer together in service to our congregation. Please sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B44A4A922A13-54350090-souper#/>

February’s Children and Youth Schedule

February 2025	
Sunday, February 2	<p>Gatherings by age group.</p> <p>OWL Session: 10:30-12pm at UU Princeton</p>
Sunday, February 9	<p>“Souper Sunday,” an all-ages worship, followed by Children & Youth Ministry fundraising brunch. No gatherings.</p> <p>As of this writing, OWL Schedule for this weekend TBD. Please contact Lauren Foss and Rebecca Thompson for details.</p>
Sunday, February 16 <i>(President’s Day Weekend)</i>	<p>Gatherings by age group.</p> <p><i>OWL does not meet today.</i></p>
Sunday, February 23	<p>Gatherings by age group.</p> <p>OWL Session: 10:30-12pm at UU Princeton</p> <p>Youth Groups meets from 4pm-6pm at UUCSH: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills, 123 East Cliff St., Somerville, NJ 08876</p>

Join Us for Our Sunday Morning Programming!

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 to support choosing the best learning experience for your child(ren). 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

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Recent Books/Stories Used in “Wonder & Wisdom”

December 29: *Wherever You Go* by Pat Zietlow Miller and illustrated by Eliza Wheeler.

January 6: “Icarus,” an original retelling by Erica Shadowson:
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/story/icarus>

January 12: “Two Birds,” a comic by Poppy the baby frog,
 from *Cat Kid Comic Club Influencers* by Dav Pilkey

UU Conscious Consumers Monthly Challenge

The UU Conscious Consumers challenges aim to empower you through the two most common and mundane choices you make nearly every single day: 1) what you choose to eat and 2) how you choose to shop. So, here we go with our February challenge:

Fresh Start February

~An apple a day keeps all sorts of troubles away~

Reclaim your power this month one bite at a time. This February the challenge is to eat one *fresh* fruit or vegetable, big or small, each and every day of the month (if you already do this, great!). Additionally, be sure to participate in this humble ritual: each time you take your first fresh bite of the day say to yourself "*What I eat DOES matter.*"

Allow this routine to empower you both physically and mentally, as it moves you into the year with a healthy and hopeful habit. Arm yourself far into the future with this related fact: **Eating more plant-based foods is one of the most effective actions individuals in countries with high meat consumption can take to personally influence all of the following areas: climate change, animal cruelty, farm worker exploitation, environmental degradation, and negative health outcomes.**

So, this month better appreciate fruits and vegetables, and their power to save the world.

Check out these other inspiring fresh food facts:

Did you know farm workers make more per dollar from fresh fruits and vegetables purchased for at-home use?

Did you know that producing one pound of beef requires 1,847 gallons of water, while one pound of vegetables requires 39 gallons?

Did you know estimates show it can take up to 100 times more land to produce a calorie from beef than from vegetables?

Did you know that people who follow a plant-based diet account for 75% less greenhouse gases compared with those who eat more than 3.5 oz. of meat per day?

Did you know that an analysis of 95 studies assessing the health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption found that eating 800 grams of fruits and vegetables daily was associated with the lowest risk of disease and premature death?

Dare to take this challenge a step further? 1) Avoid processed foods- opt for an apple instead of cookies, chips and other snacks. 2) Resolve to participate in at least one Princeton Eats Plants potluck dinner this year to pick up some ideas for plant-based, whole food meal options. PEP meets the first Wednesday of every month! Find out more about Princeton Eats Plants by emailing vcampbell@callawayhenderson.com.

See you again for March's challenge!



UU HISTORY- CLARA BARTON - Part Two, Life in DC and the Civil War - Continued**By Carl H. Haag**

The needs were awesome, so Clara sent appeals to northern newspapers. Soon her rooms were overflowing, so she rented warehouse space for the food, blankets, clothing and medical supplies. She delivered supplies to the front where exhausted surgeons welcomed her. Clara would usually pitch in distributing food and water, and binding wounds. She learned by doing and soon was extracting bullets with a pen knife.

At Antietam she was giving a wounded soldier some water and a bullet ripped through her sleeve killing her patient. At Fredericksburg she was crossing a pontoon bridge in the raging battle when a cannon ball tore away part of her clothing and killed the officer behind her. She made it to the other side and worked with the doctor who had begged her to come and help him with all the wounded. At a makeshift hospital, Barton and her staff worked night and day to treat wounded soldiers, including Confederates. She became known as “the Angel of the Battlefield.”

Clara Barton was on the battlefields from Fredericksburg in December, 1862 to Gen. Lee’s surrender on April 9, 1865. Most men could not stomach the horrors of the killing fields and the dead and dying, but Barton was right in the middle of it. She was with the troops in blistering hot weather, in freezing temperatures, when it rained or snowed, doing her work of bringing food and supplies, and treating the wounded.

For 8 months she was with her brother, David, who had been appointed Quartermaster at Hilton Head, near Charleston, SC during the siege, and she did everything she could for the soldiers. It took its toll on her, leaving her helpless, ill, and blind for weeks. Then she went back to do the hard work that was necessary. During these years, she was made the “Superintendent of Nurses in the Army of the James.”

When Barton was one of the North’s most famous nurses, she heard that Hart Bodine, the ring leader of the big boys in her one-room schoolhouse in Hightstown and many of his friends had enlisted in company A of the 6th NJ Infantry and were encamped at Brandy Station, VA. Clara took a wagon to bring “her boys” jams, jellies, and clothing. After the war, because she had done so much for him, Hart named his daughter Clara Barton Bodine.

In Part Three you will find out what Clara did after the war ended and the incredible story of how she started the American Red Cross.

Join the 500 Club!

We were heartened by responses to our December Stewardship letter that stated that “we would like to begin reimagining stewardship as a year-round practice, where our members’ generous support flows naturally – without the need for much fanfare and cajoling.”

In that letter we proposed that if each pledge unit rounded up its 2024 pledge to the next \$500 level in 2025, we would easily meet and perhaps exceed our stewardship goal. One person immediately responded asking if we would like him to pledge more for the current year as well. That same day, another wrote with the most wonderful email opening we’ve ever seen: “Dear Elizabeth and Cindy, you beautiful and stalwart UUs who help keep us all alive!”

She continued: “You are absolutely correct that our congregation should support ourselves without having you or anybody else sing, dance, be clever and amusing about it. Or nag everyone to death. I hope you keep that message in front of people, it’s sensible and respectful. Aren’t we grownups?”

The pledge drive will begin in early March. Prior to that time, however, we encourage you to, as we said in December, “find some time to reflect on our community’s meaning in your life and the many ways it serves you, our faith community and the world beyond our congregation’s walls.” And please consider rounding your 2024 pledge up to the next \$500 level. Singing and dancing is not our forte!

Cindy Funka-Lea and Elizabeth Silverman
2025 UU Princeton Pledge Drive chairs

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, Feb. 21 at 12 noon. Keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. No sign-up needed.

New to UU Programs

All are welcome to a casual and conversational introduction to UU Princeton and Unitarian Universalism with Rev. Bill. Bring your questions as we begin exploring our faith, together. Our next session is on Feb. 9 from 11:45 - 12:30. No sign-up needed, and bring your friends!

Men's Group

The UU Princeton Men's Group gathers for connection and conversation on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Founders Room. Stop by to build community and make friends! Email Marc Rubenstein at marcruby@gmail.com for more information or to be added to the e-list.

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.

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

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.

Please join the Evergreen Chapter of the Covenant of UU Pagans for any of our February events:
 Full Moon Circle: on February 7th we will gather in the John Murray Room to celebrate Cold Moon
 Burning of the Greens: on Sunday, 2/2 please join us just outside of Channing Hall to to acknowledge the lengthening days and the return of signs of Spring! As many do on Imbolc around the world, we will burn the greens that sustained us when the days were dark and the land was bleak, and look toward new growth and springtime.

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, February 20, 2025
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 this month is our own **Rev. Jennifer Keller**, who will talk about *From Plymouth to Princeton: the sometimes wayward journey of a life-long Unitarian Universalist*. Rev. Jennifer was born into an interfaith family and raised in the UU congregation of First Parish Plymouth, MA. She'll share what it was like "growing up UU," of separation from congregational life, what drew her back, and the inspiration to and encouragement of her call to ministry.

No reservation is needed and all 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 receive email updates about the monthly lunches and other activities, obtain more information about the 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.

More information about this ministry is also available on the UUCP Website <https://www.uuprinceton.org/connect/groups/womens-alliance/>

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

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በመሆንዎት ደስተኞቻችን!



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 – UU Faith Action and Public Issues. Promotes advocacy and collaboration around statewide legislative issues. Contact the church office for more information.

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)



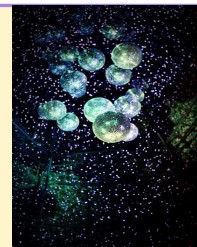


*This is a congregation of open minds,
Of helping hands.
And of loving hearts.
Together we care for our earth
And work for friendship and peace in
the world.*

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.



Fun! Fun! Fun!

2025 FELLOWSHIP AUCTION CELEBRATION PARTY
SATURDAY, March 1, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
ON-LINE BIDDING FEBRUARY 21 – February 28:
DON'T MISS OUT!

REMEMBER: Bidding starts on-line before the Celebration Party!! We have fabulous and creative donations for your bidding excitement. Then, join our Celebration Party and bid on Take Me Home Tonight items, various offerings, and raffle baskets. As always, this is a fun, intergenerational, community-building event that celebrates yet another successful auction. The party is a great way to get to know each other as we cash in on our winnings, attending dinners, tours, classes, food items and more. Come enjoy great finger food, wine and beer and, of course, FELLOWSHIP!

All the money raised will go to support the important activities of UUCP! We've scheduled it early in the evening so that children can come and join in the fun.

The Fellowship Auction is for a great cause, and it's great fun!

Photo by [Fidel Fernando](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Caring for Our Neighbors Ministry

Join us to Spice up Life on Sunday, February 9, 2025!

Can you imagine only eating bland pantry staples without seasoning, day after day? Many of the families who depend on Arm in Arm and other food assistance programs live in food deserts where they cannot buy spices at affordable prices, and many also suffer from high blood pressure so should limit sodium/salt in their diets. Spices and salt-free seasonings help make their food healthier and more satisfying.

Our **UU Princeton Social Justice Caring for Our Neighbors Ministry** invites families and individuals to help bag spices & seasonings at our Sunday Service on February 9, 2025. These will be donated to the **Arm in Arm Food Pantries**. We'll supply the spices, Ziploc baggies and labels so that they are standardized and clearly marked from us at UUCP. If you'd like to sign up to help organize the effort, or prefer to work on your own from home, please contact Louise Senior at caring4neighbors@uuprinceton.org or DrLSenior@gmail.com Thank you!

Loaves and Fishes is March 28 and 29, 2025

Please Hold the Date to help out with our UU Loaves and Fishes meal, served in Trenton in partnership with UU Washington Crossing. It will be held on Saturday morning, **March 29, 2025**, but most of our work is preparation during the two weeks before (Shopping, making sandwiches & bag lunches, Baking chicken, brownies, chopping fresh veggies, making cole slaw). A Signup Genius will go out for helpers in mid-February.

Join us for hand-on projects that help prevent hunger and homelessness 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.

Ministry for the Earth

UU Princeton's 40-Day Lent for the Earth Challenge Wed. March 5th – Thu. April 17th

The UU Conscious Consumers invite you to focus your mind and actions on taking care of our planet during the 40 days of Lent. We hope this challenge can have both a positive impact on the environment as well as on your habits. To participate simply choose one of our environmental challenges (or create your own) and try your best to follow through for 40 days (3/5-4/17). Come sign your name in our UU Princeton Lent for the Earth Challenge book in the lobby after services each Sunday starting on February 23. Also pick up a string to tie onto your wrist, your bag or anywhere that might serve you as a reminder of the challenge and your participation. Visit the uuprinceton.org homepage for more detailed information about each of these challenges:

- Animal Product Fast
- Plastic Container Fast
- Online Shopping Fast
- Take-out Food Fast
- Create Your Own Environmental Fast

Super Bowl Sunday is also SUPER FOAM SUNDAY!- Feb. 9th

Sunday, February 9th the Earth Ministry will collect your Styrofoam in the lobby before and after worship for 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 members-only collection but you are welcome to bring in foam from friends, family and neighbors.

April 22, 2025 will mark the 55th celebration of **Earth Day**. How should our Ministry for the Earth celebrate this annual event?

What would you like to see happen?

On Sunday, February 2, let's meet together to discuss our ideas for doing something meaningful in April. Are you one of the members of our congregation who would like to do more in response the environmental challenges we face? Will you join a group of like-minded people develop and implement such a plan? After the service, get your favored beverage and join the group meeting in the Murray Room. I'll provide a variety of munchies.

Ray Nichols

EarthMinistry@uuprinceton.org

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world" -Margaret Meade

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.

March 9th, Kick off for book read of "Mindful Race Talk," the Sunday after the service. Racial Justice Ministry is glad to announce a book reading for March/April 2025. The book will be *Mindful Race Talk* by Dr. Nathalie Edmond. This book's subtitle is *Building Literacy, Fluency and Agility*. We urge as many congregants as possible to read and discuss this book.

Mindful Race Talk is not a book about history or fact; it's a book about emotions and behavior. It is directly applicable to the racial justice work we all try to do. It is based in Mindfulness practice, and the first part of the book presents an overview of Mindfulness – a practice of self-awareness and relaxation, along with other habits of satisfaction and gratitude. Then the book proceeds to use this practice to examine our own and society's assumptions and behaviors relating to race, including privilege and power, antiracist behaviors, and interpersonal effectiveness.

The author is Dr. Nathalie Edmond. Dr. Edmond lives in Ewing Township and is an active UU at the Washington Crossing congregation. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and antiracist educator, and we are very pleased that she will be in our congregation on **Sunday, March 9, 2025** to kick off our book reading.

Copies of the book will be available for sale starting on Sunday, February 2. The price will be \$17. It's also available on Amazon, either on kindle (\$9) or in hard copy (\$19). We urge you to look over the book and consider joining the reading and discussion.

We will have three discussion sessions in small groups on Zoom, starting after the March 9 introduction. Look for SignUp Genius sessions (Menu > Signup Genius on the UUPrinceton website) in the next week to join the book read discussions.

Newcomer Gathering March 9

Attention, Newcomers to UU Princeton! Whether you attend seldom or often, whether you are a member or not, we want to invite you to a Newcomers Gathering at the Princeton home of a member. The date is Sunday March 9 from 3 to 5 pm. Children are welcome. There will be drinks and snacks and great company. Newcomers will have a chance to mingle with those who have been Hanging Greens at Christmas in our sanctuary and drinking coffee in Robinson Lounge for many a year. Rev. Bill will join us. To RSVP, please drop a note to Promotions@uuprinceton.org so we can send you details.

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 UU Princeton Outreach Grant Committee. Request a grant sponsorship form by emailing grants@uuprinceton.org

February FELLOWSHIP NIGHT SATURDAY, February 8th 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>



STOCK/SECURITY DONATIONS

Thank you for your continued support. For those choosing to transfer stocks, securities, or mutual funds as part of your pledge contributions, please complete the Stock Donation Form available here:

<https://www.uuprinceton.org/about-giving/forms/>. Or contact the office with the transfer information.

Click on the "Stock Donation Form," fill it out, and send it to the office at office@uuprinceton.org. It is important that these steps are followed so we can properly track your transfer and credit your contribution to your pledge account.

If you recently made a stock donation and have not heard from the office, please reach out so that we correctly credit this donation to your account.

Thank you!

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Welcome New Members

We are so pleased to welcome **Belinda Seiger**, who recently signed our Membership Book and became an official member of our congregation. We are grateful for her presence and commitment and look forward to many years of shared ministry together!

If you have been attending UU Princeton and would like to join our congregation, or if you have questions about membership, please contact Rev. Bill (Bill@UUPrinceton.org). Our next three-session Membership Program will happen on 11:45 – 12:45 on March 9, 23, and 30, and our next monthly *New to UU* introductory programs will be on Feb. 9 from 11:45 - 12:30. We'd love to see you at any or all of these!

And here is a little more about Belinda!

Belinda describes herself as a life-long Unitarian Universalist even before she officially aligned with the faith 2 years ago. She grew up in a secular Jewish family but found herself seeking a deeper spiritual connection at a young age. This path led her to a life-long meditation practice and a focus on service, community and compassion. She is mom to two young adults and a furry family member. She lives in Princeton with her husband Scott where they are psychotherapists.

Names & Numbers

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Our Eight Principles of Unitarian Universalism

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Next *Skylights* Deadline:

February 18, 2024

Submissions due for the

March 2025

ISSUE

skylights@uuprinceton.org