



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.

March 2, *Against all Odds*

As humanity makes progress our challenges seem to grow in lockstep. Today, many of us feel paralyzed in the face of gargantuan global challenges such as climate change. We ask, "how can I, just one person, possibly do anything to save the world?" In this service ahead of Lent, we examine how two of our core Unitarian Universalist principles, interdependence and transformation, can help us surmount what feel like impossible odds. This service presents a special introduction to UU Princeton's newest group: UU Conscious Consumers, and the second annual Lent for the Earth challenge.

**Worship Leader: Kirsten Shearer
and the UU Conscious Consumers**

Worship Associate: Isabela Morales

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

March 9, *Mindful Race Talk: Befriending Liberation*

We're pleased to welcome Dr. Nathalie Edmond, author of *Mindful Race Talk: Building Literacy, Fluency, and Agility*, to our pulpit this morning. Our Racial Justice Ministry selected Dr. Edmond's book for our current congregational read, and invites everyone to attend a workshop with Dr. Edmond after this service to kickoff the discussion. Dr. Edmond is a licensed clinical psychologist, yoga teacher, antiracism educator, and consultant focused on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). She is also a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing, as well as the director of the counseling center at Villanova University.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Bill Neely, Dr. Nathalie Edmond

Worship Associate: Rev. Bill Neely

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

March 16, *The Welcome of Wild Things: A Multigenerational Service of Story, Song, and Movement*

"Let the wild rumpus start!" In this interactive worship experience inspired by Maurice Sendak's children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, we will sing, dance, and share stories about our feelings. Many of us are experiencing the world and our emotions as a wild rumpus. How might we embrace joy and find comfort in troubled times?

Worships Leader: Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

Worship Associate: Jeanne Devoe

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

March 23, *From the Ground UP*

In science and lore, dirt, mud, and muck have much to do with the development of life, as does the sun, the stars, and the ways in which we live together. The gift of life comes from the cosmos, nature, and one another. How can we live in deeper gratitude for these gifts, and how might that lead to lives of blessing and abundance?

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: TBA

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

March 30, Sacred Atheism

(Worship Services continued on page 2)

The Good News

(Continued from page 1)

Atheism and agnosticism can seem out-of-place in religious traditions, but Unitarian Universalism has long affirmed and embraced the wisdom, depth, and commitments that both can bring to faith communities. How are we a stronger faith because of what atheism offers? How does agnosticism help grow our spirit and service? Rev. Bill thanks Angela Colva, who made the winning bid on the "Pick a Sermon Topic" item at the 2024 Fellowship Auction, for such a rich and important topic!

Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely

Worship Associate: TBA

Music: Special Musician TBA; Sue den Outer, Pianist

For Our Newcomers

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)

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

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 Good News, Rev. Bill Neely

A few months ago, one of my kids urged me to look at the sunset. It sets in the sky beyond our living room window, above the houses and trees in our neighbor-hood, and since our curtains are usually open, someone in our home will often notice if there's a lot of color that evening. We tend to draw each other's attention to it. We'll take a look, sometimes going outside to stand on the stoop and see the colors and clouds directly.

Every minute matters in all of this. The colors don't stay long. It's best to drop what you're doing and go take a look before the clouds shift and the sun drops and the pinks and reds and violets become a darkening blue, and then the nighttime sky. That sky is beautiful too in its own way, and there'll be plenty of time to appreciate it. But that soft, shifting, riot of colors comes and goes in a flash. And sometimes, when it's very cloudy, it doesn't come at all.

I've seen those colors reflected on water too. That usually happens in the early morning, on the days when I find myself by a body of water at dawn. The rising sun brings those colors just as the setting sun does. And for just a few moments, if you're before the water at the right time, you'll see their shades bounce from the sky off the waves and ripples below. The light seems to grow then. There's more of it, and the shades are more plentiful on the water than when they're only in the sky. They move as well, along with the ripples and the wind. They shimmer.

Some of the stories that we know and tell about how everything began imagine creation starting and then at some point stopping. They imagine a single point of everything emerging and wrapping up later on, with us living on in that process as one of creation's lingering effects. But the colors and the lights that rise and fall in the sky show us that nothing has stopped. Each day there is a new creation of light and color and wind and water. Each day is a new creation in which we can appreciate our place in this ongoing mystery of story and science. Each day allows us the chance to notice and praise this continuing creation that rises and sets anew each day.

And when we pause before it, we know a little extra beauty, a little extra peace, and a little extra gratitude for the immense web of life on this small, stunning planet. We know that we too are being formed anew each day, formed by light and air and energy. Formed to bless as we are blessed. And formed to sometimes stop, stare, wonder, and breathe in the new and ancient majesty of all that is.

March Spiritual Theme—Kindness
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 Kindness this month are:

“If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.”

– Dolly Parton

When was a time that you provided a kindness to someone who needed it (or that someone provided a kindness to you at a time you needed it)? What was the act, and what was the result?

“I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet, strange, I am ungrateful to those teachers.”

– Khalil Gibran, Lebanese poet (1883-1931)

What lessons have you learned about kindness from witnessing yourself or someone else being unkind?

“Kindness is doing what you can, where you are, with what you have.”

– Slogan of RAKtivist, a movement based on people practicing Random Acts of Kindness.

Given that you already have all you need to do so, what is one practice of kindness you can implement immediately?

“Self-kindness is the foundation of all kindness, for only when we love ourselves can we truly love others.”

– Dr Amit Ray, Indian philosopher (1960 -)

*Are you as kind to yourself as you are toward others?
What changes could you make to practice more kindness toward yourself?*

Joys and Sorrows

Rainy Hartley passed away on October 24 due to the effects of metastatic breast cancer. The timing of her death was of her own choosing. Both Rainy and her husband Tim were staunch advocates of the 2019 NJ law the Medical Aid in Dying Act. They were also extremely active in our Racial Justice ministry. They led our congregation's inclusion in the work related to the only known lynching in New Jersey, and their efforts were responsible for the marker now in Eatontown recognizing the lynching of Samuel “Mingo Jack” Johnson more than 138 years ago.

Steve Mariotti, who attended UU Princeton in recent years, died on October 20 at the age of 71. Steve was a teacher in some of New York’s roughest schools who discovered that his bored, disrespectful students suddenly tuned in when he talked about running a business, inspiring him to create an organization that has taught business skills to more than 1 million at-risk youths in the United States and abroad. A full account of his life can be found at <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/28/nyregion/steve-mariotti-dead.html>.

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our special "Soup-er Bowl" fundraising brunch after service on Sunday, February 9. We raised over \$425 toward our Children & Youth Ministry restricted funds*! Brunches are always a fun way to connect with one another over a good meal, and the monies raised are an additional blessing. A special shout out to Betty Ashwood for organizing us. Our aim is to host at least two brunches/year and hope those of you that had to miss this one can take part next time.

*These funds pay for things not covered through our annual budget: including training costs for OWL facilitators (~\$700/person) and group retreats for Coming of Age and High School youth (~\$1500 or more/trip). Our restricted funds were depleted over the pandemic years when we were unable to host brunches and we are just beginning to replenish them.

March's Children and Youth Schedule

March 2025	
Sunday, March 2	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 17: 10:00am-11:30am at UUCWC
Sunday, March 9 <i>Daylight savings. Spring ahead one hour.</i>	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 18: 10:00am-11:30am at UUCWC YoUUth Group meets from 4pm-6pm at UU Princeton
Sunday, March 16	All ages worship. <i>OWL does not meet today.</i>
Sunday, March 23	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 19: 10:00am-11:30am at UUCWC
Sunday, March 30	Gatherings by age group. OWL Session 20: 10:00am-11:30am at UUCWC Includes a parent/caregiver session. Time TBA.

Save the Date for our Spring Egg Hunt after service on Sunday, April 20. Friends, neighbors, & family welcome.

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

(Continued from page 4)

Recent Books/Stories Used in “Wonder & Wisdom”

January 19: *The Circles Around Us* by Brad Montague, illustrated by Brad & Kristi Montague.

January 23: *You Are Loved* by Liv Downing.

February 2: *Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall.

February 9: *Wish Soup* by Junghwa Park & “Stone Soup,” European Folk Tale

February 16: *My Footprints* by Bao Phi, illustrated by Basia Tran.

UU Conscious Consumers Monthly Challenge

March & April Challenge

The UU Conscious Consumers invite you to join the Lent for the Earth Challenge, a new movement led by UU Princeton that takes place this year between March 5 and April 17.

Fasting has been practiced in many religions for various reasons. In Hinduism, fasting is a way to purify the body and mind. Muslims fast the month of Ramadan to deepen their connection with God by demonstrating patience and self-discipline, and by showing empathy for the less fortunate. In Judaism, fasting is a means of spiritual reflection and remembrance of significant events in Jewish history. In Christianity, the Lenten tradition asks followers to give up something for 40 days as a way of honoring Jesus’s time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry. It is a time of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving that prepares Christians for Easter.

UU Lent for the Earth Challenge invites you to join many of your fellow congregants as they buckle down for a 40-day planet-friendly fast of their choice and, with great focus and intention, directly honor our faith’s commitment to uphold one of our seven UU principles: Interdependence: “We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice.”

Learn more about a variety of UU Lent Challenges Skylights and on the uuprinceton.org homepage. We welcome you to support the interconnected web of life while also proving to yourself that you are stronger and more resourceful than you think, and that you can always find ways to adapt to new habits and adopt new choices.

Here are some Conscious Consumer facts to help you on your journey:

- Research suggests it can take between 18 and 254 days to fully establish a new habit, with an average of around 66 days.
- Don't get discouraged by setbacks. Forming new habits takes time and effort!
- Rewarding yourself for achieving your new habit can help strengthen the behavior.

Action to Support Transgender Rights

Background

On January 28, 2025, an Executive Order (EO) was signed restricting gender-affirming care (GAC) for transgender youth, which includes treatments such as puberty blockers, hormone replacement therapy (HRT), and gender-affirming surgeries. For more info, read the EO [here](#).

Call to Action

Contact your local, state, and federal representatives to protect gender-affirming care. Actions include:

1. Enacting state legislation protecting GAC and providers.
 2. Opposing federal legislation restricting GAC.
 3. Taking local actions, including stockpiling HRT prescriptions.
- You can contact your representatives by phone, web form, or email. The 5 Calls app makes it easy to reach out.

NJ Contacts

- Senators Cory Booker, Andy Kim
- U.S. Reps: Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12), Herb Conaway (NJ-3), Frank Pallone (NJ-6)
- Governor Phil Murphy
- Attorney General Matthew Platkin
- NJ State Senators/Assembly Members (see specific districts above)

For quick email/letter templates, use the provided website.



UU HISTORY - CLARA BARTON - Part Three - The Red Cross**By Carl H. Haag**

In this installment, you will find out what Clara did after the war ended, the incredible story of how she started the American Red Cross, and what she did until she died. Finally, you will find out how her legacy lives on. —Carl

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Lincoln, a few days before he was assassinated, asked Barton to search for missing men of the Union Army. She soon exhausted her own \$7000 but received \$15,000 to continue the work. She marked 13,000 graves of Union troops who had died at the infamous Andersonville [GA] prison. Before the end of her service, she also had located 25,000 missing people, living and dead.

Americans wanted to hear about her experiences, so she went on the lecture platform for several months until her voice gave out. The strain of her work for eight years was too much, and her doctors sent her abroad to rest. She spent four years there, at first in Switzerland where she learned about the Red Cross founded by twelve nations in 1864. This happened because of one man, Swiss businessman Henry Durant.

Durant had gone to visit wounded soldiers after the Battle of Solferino in 1859. He was shocked by the lack of facilities, personnel, and medical aid available to help these soldiers. As a result, Durant published a book about the horrors of war and it inspired him to propose:

1. A permanent relief agency for humanitarian aid in times of war--which led to the establishment of the Red Cross, and
2. A government treaty recognizing the neutrality of the agency and allowing it to provide aid in a war zone--which led to the 1864 Geneva Convention, the first codified international treaty that covered the sick and wounded soldiers on the battlefield. For both of these accomplishments, Henry Durant became co-recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

In 1870, the Franco-Prussian War began and Barton got involved in relief work in Strasbourg and the following year in Paris. That effort and seeing the Red Cross in action convinced her that the United States should sign the Geneva Treaty and establish the Red Cross in America. So she returned home to make that happen.

She wrote articles and hounded Congress to sign the Geneva Treaty for thirteen years. She once waited for a new, more responsive president to be elected. Finally, in 1881, Congress voted for the treaty and for the National American Red Cross. Clara Barton was appointed its first president.

Clara was almost sixty. The war years had taken a toll, but her little frame was unbent, even though her eyes and voice often failed her, and she had recurring spells of pneumonia. Her strong inner drive kept her going, and she ran the Red Cross for twenty years. She led it in its relief efforts in a score of disasters—forest fires in Michigan, the Charleston earthquake, the Johnstown flood, floods in Illinois and Texas, famines in Russia and Turkey, and the Spanish-American war in Cuba. Whenever possible, she was at the site, personally directing efforts to save lives. In 1900, while on relief work on Galveston Island, where 3000 died in the flood, America's greatest loss of life in a disaster, Clara broke down physically. She kept her office for twenty three years until she was eighty three and then resigned or was forced out as president of the American Red Cross in 1904. However, she carried on the work of her life by starting the "National First Aid Association."

Clara Barton died in Glen Echo, Maryland, on April 11, 1912, at the age of 91.

Clara Barton lives on! In 1921, the National Women's Organization of the Universalist Church acquired the Clara Barton birthplace in North Oxford, Massachusetts. The house had fallen into disrepair, the farm buildings were about to tumble down, and the land had been neglected. The women restored the house and land and made it into a living memorial to Clara. They opened it as a summer medical colony, a "Fresh Air Camp" for diabetic girls in 1926, the first in the country. Today, it and the nearby Joslin camp for boys, are both well-equipped with living quarters and medical facilities for the several hundred diabetic girls and boys who come every summer. Here in loving memory Clara Barton's indomitable spirit continues to do the kind of work she would approve.

Clara Barton was elected to the American Hall of Fame and has a postage stamp honoring her and the Red Cross.

I want to express my appreciation to the authors of the five books I depended on most in writing about Clara Barton. They were: Clinton Lee Scott These Live Tomorrow; Willard C. Frank, Jr. A Year With Our Liberal Heritage; Grace Norton Rogers, Maurice Shuman, Jr., Dr. David G. Martin

Clara Barton and Hightstown; Gwen Foss A Who's Who of U.U.s; and Fred E. Lange Jr. Famous Unitarians/Universalists [about the many UUs featured on stamps].

I take full responsibility for any errors or mistakes in this compilation. Carl H. Haag

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, March 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.

Adult Faith Development- What is Genesis and Exodus?

Our discussion of the Hebrew Scriptures continues with *Genesis* (March 2 and 9) and *Exodus* (March 23 and 30), which introduces us to Moses and his narrative of liberation. Come to one or all, and all are welcome! The group meets in the lower lounge from 9 – 9:45 a.m. Please sign up at the "SignUp Genius" tab at www.uuprinceton.org.

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. pep@uuprinceton.org
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 March 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 will be the Rev. Robert Moore, Executive Director of the Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA) since 1981. Rev. Moore will speak on **"The Increased Challenges of Peace in 2025, and How We can Address Them."** His talk will include his thoughts on strengthening ghost gun restrictions in NJ; opposing the new nuclear arms race now starting; and efforts to inject gun safety and climate emergency issues into this year's gubernatorial race

The CFPA is a regional organization dedicated to the global abolition of nuclear weapons, a peace economy, and a halt to weapons trafficking. In addition to his CFPA executive director responsibilities, Rev. Moore is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

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/>

Post Abortion Care Kit Project - Hold the Date March 30

The Women's Alliance, in conjunction with UU Faith-Action NJ's Reproductive Justice Task Force, will be creating post abortion care kits. UU congregations around the state have been creating these kits, which are a tangible way to support our abortion clinics and providers by helping them create a sense of comfort for their patients.

On March 30th after the Sunday service we will gather to prepare 100 kits (tote bags with various supplies and written notes of validation and care.) You are invited to participate in this project by donating supplies (or money to buy supplies) on two Sundays in March, March 16th and March 23rd, and helping to prepare the kits after the March 30th service.

More details will be given in a Sign-Up Genius email, oth-

er emails from the Women's Alliance and in the early March e-Happenings. Or contact Pat Radtke at patradtke@me.com or 609 712-3525.



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)

Caring for Our Neighbors Ministry

Fabulous Success with Our February 2025 “Spice up Life Drive” for Arm in Arm Food Pantry

Thank you to all who brought their helping hands to help pack spices on Sunday February 9 after the service! All in all, we delivered 450 “spice items” to the pantry, which is an all-time high for our UU Princeton Spice drives. We packed 360 packets of 14 seasonings, and also contributed an additional 90 bottles of spices. All were given to Arm in Arm for their clients on Tuesday Feb 11. Arm in Arm was very grateful – and both the pantry visitors and volunteers working were delighted by the scents of the spices delivered. Costs were covered by some donations but also by Caring for Our Neighbors’ funds from our weekly Plate Collections. Thank you all for your generosity!

THIS IS LOAVES AND FISHES MONTH!

Our annual Loaves and Fishes meal in Trenton at St. Mary’s Cathedral is Saturday March 29. Together with our fellow UUs from Washington Crossing, we will provide both a dinner and a bag lunch to about 250 guests on Saturday March 29. An additional 250 “to-go” servings will also be distributed. The Sign-up will also be posted on the UU Princeton website.

THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT DATES: We need volunteers to help make the food for our part of the meal on **Friday March 28, about 5 to 7pm, and to serve the meal on Saturday March 29, about 10:30-1pm.**

Our meal will again be home-baked Southwest chicken thighs, potato salad, cole slaw, veggies with dip, a roll/butter, home baked brownies, and a drink. We plan to make 500 dinners, BUT – we share the load with our fellow UUs at Washington Crossing, so we only make ~250. Because of the reduced number of bag lunches (‘only’ 250), UU Washington Crossing will make all of them at their congregation on Friday evening March 28.

How can you help? SIGN UP on the signup genius at UU Princeton website to:

BE A CHICKEN BAKER: UU Princeton Social Justice will buy 250 chicken thighs and spice at wholesale, and we will bake it TOGETHER at the UU Princeton Kitchen on **Friday afternoon/evening March 28**. The recipe is very easy! We estimate that we need 4 or more ‘chefs’ to cook the chicken.

BE A BROWNIE BAKER: Bake two dozen brownies at your home, cut them, and bag them individually using zip lock baggies, and return them to UU Princeton by **Friday NOON March 28 (or the Sunday before)**. We need only **~11 bakers**.

BE A VEGGIE CHOPPER: Come to UU Princeton on Friday March 28 to clean, slice up, and bag carrots & celery. These will be served with the hot meal. We could use 6 or more choppers.

HELP MAKE THE COLE SLAW: Come to UU Princeton on Friday March 28, late afternoon-evening, and help slice up cabbage and mix dressing for the Cole Slaw for our lunch guests!

BE A SERVER / “DISHER-OUTER” at St Mary’s Cathedral, Trenton, **on Saturday Morning, March 25, from ~8:30 am to ~12:30**. We can use a team of at least 5 people. Additional servers can come at 10:30 am-12:30.

ANGELS WITH BROOMS: Help clean up St. Mary’s after the meal is served – Saturday March 29, 12 to 1:30. Many hands make light work.

Questions? email DrLsenior@gmail.com or caring4neighbors@uuprinceton.org

What’s Loaves and Fishes and why do we do it?

TASK, the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, used to be closed on weekends. There were no other meal providers in Trenton for those in need, so ‘Loaves and Fishes,’ our partner organization, formed over 35 years ago to serve weekend meals on the last two Saturdays of each month, year round, because that is often when household funds run low (before assistance comes in at the beginning of the month). Our UU congregations have collaborated to provide the last Saturday in March meal for over 30 years!

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.

Ministry for the Earth

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

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. 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

St. Patty's Day Potluck(y) Brunch- March 16

All are invited to dance a jig and join the Promotions Committee for brunch after worship on 3/16. This will be a great opportunity to invite a guest! We're raising money to support our UU Princeton tabling and advertising campaigns. Help us help UU! PS: Can you bring a dish too? We're a small committee and can use your help. If you can contribute a dish or lend a hand for setup, service or cleanup, visit Signup Genius located on the uuprinceton.org homepage or scan the QR code.



News and action to take to support Immigrant rights

We wanted to highlight two items on **Immigrant rights**, which Michelle Ochsner forwarded to us. The first is a news article. The second is an action to take.

1) A court challenge to the administrations attacks on refugee resettlement: https://cwsglobal.org/press-releases/cws-challenges-suspension-of-refugee-resettlement-program-and-freeze-of-refugee-funding/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIYPqFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHO68x1h_u1migdeeLhArmtKe4S1Qn9HXZzsc0YGjni8CCla5SbIEqWQ_aem_WraicJLoj3xn6iI6d0EMQ

2) Reach out to the Congress and the State Department to resume funding and resettlement activities: <https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-tell-congress-and-the-state-department-to-resume-life-saving-funds-for-refugees-and-end-stop-work-orders/>

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," Sunday after the service. We are thrilled to announce that we are hosting a congregational book read for *Mindful Race Talk*, by local author Dr. Nathalie Edmond. We, the Racial Justice Ministry, have previously announced the upcoming congregational program to read and discuss *Mindful Race Talk: Building Literacy, Fluency, and Agility*, by Dr. Nathalie Edmond. Copies of the book are now available for purchase after Sunday's worship services.

We invite you to sign up now for this program through the UU Princeton [Signup Genius](#). You can also directly sign up for the [Monday](#) (7pm), [Tuesday](#) (4:30 pm), or [Thursday](#) (7pm) sessions.

We are planning three sessions for at least three discussion groups during the weeks of March 10, 17, and 24 after the planned congregational workshop on **Sunday, March 9** with the author, Dr. Nathalie Edmond.

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.

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, to kick off our book reading.

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.



*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.*

MARCH FELLOWSHIP NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 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>



Strength in Sisterhood: Women's Retreat Returns to Murray Grove!

Join us at the historic Murray Grove Retreat Center, birthplace of American Universalism, for the Women's Retreat, from April 4-6. This year's theme, "From Angst to Agency," will explore turning uncertainty and fear into empowerment and meaningful change.

Special Guest: Rev. Diane Olenick Rollert, President of Coalition Inclusion Québec and former minister of the Unitarian Church of Montreal, will guide us through this transformative journey.

Highlights:

- Keynote & Discussions with Rev. Rollert
- Workshops on resilience, mindfulness, and purpose
- Guided meditation, yoga, and creative expression
- Nature walks, campfires, and nourishing meals
- Connection-building in a supportive, inclusive environment

This retreat is open to all women, cis or trans, and nonbinary folks.

Reserve your spot today at www.murraygrove.org!

Details: Murray Grove, 431 US Hwy 9, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 April 4-6



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Welcome Our Newest Members

We are so pleased to welcome **Lisa Wescott** and **Sam Long**, who recently signed our Membership Book and became official members of our congregation! We are grateful for their commitment and look forward to many years of shared ministry together. Stay tuned for brief bios of each soon and for another New Member Celebration in worship in the coming months.

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). And mark your calendars for our next three-session Membership Program on March 9 (History), 23 (Beliefs), and 30 (Membership) from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. each Sunday. We'd love to see you at any or all of the sessions!

Five Fabulous Reasons to Invite Friends to Church Soon

The Promotions Committee is trying to invite other soulful seekers into our community. Meg Cox spoke in the pulpit on February 23 about some great occasions to invite friends, but if you missed that or want to see the list again, here are 5 fabulous opportunities and occasions to invite friends or family to UU Princeton. We're not going to stop running ads, updating our website and Facebook page or any of our other initiatives. But you yourself are our best ambassadors. Questions? Other ideas to spread the word? Promotions@uuprinceton.org.

Here's the list of the Fabulous 5:

Promo Team Potluck St. Patty's Brunch: March 16. Not only do visitors get to eat brunch free, but there will be "conversation menu" cards at the tables to spur interactions.

Earth Day Service on April 13.

Easter Service (with egg hunt for kids) on April 20.

Spring Sale on Friday April 2 from 4 to 7 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm.

Weekly Sunday meditation Anyone can attend at 9:30 am in Fahs Theater weekly, right before the service.

Names & Numbers

Rev. Bill Neely

bill@uuprinceton.org
Parish Minister ext. 111

Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

jennifer@uuprinceton.org
Assistant Minister ext. 118

Pauline E. Nijander

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Next *Skylights* Deadline:

March 18, 2024

**Submissions due for the
April 2025
ISSUE**

skylights@uuprinceton.org