



# 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](http://www.uuprinceton.org) for updates.

### April 6, *Accepting Forgiveness*

A value of practicing forgiveness is found in the freedom that it offers. In letting go of resentments, we lighten our spirits to stretch toward greater peace. This process is embraced, and in some cases commanded, by traditions far and wide. It's ancient. And yet sometimes, it remains difficult. Let's explore how to accept forgiveness today.

**Worship Leader: Rev. Bill Neely**

**Guest Worship Associate: Lorraine Rette**

**Music: Samuel Stephenson, Interim Music Director; Sue den Outer, Pianist**

### April 13, *This One Big Earth*

Join together for an all-ages (early) Earth Day worship service of story, song, and hope. We'll connect anew with our calling to care for our planet as we deepen our Unitarian Universalist commitment to our "Blue Boat Home."

**Worship Leaders: Revs. Bill Neely, Jennifer Kelleher**

**Worship Associate: TBA**

**Music: Samuel Stephenson, Interim Music Director; Sue den Outer, Pianist**

### April 20, *The Easter Light*

Easter Sunday celebrates the story of Jesus's resurrection from the dead. The day begins in death and sadness but becomes a celebration of eternal life and joy; of a peaceful prophecy fulfilled, and of love reigning supreme. In our lives, we also know times of sadness and despair and seek the new light of a new day. How can the message of Easter help us see that light, and live in it all year long?

**Worships Leader: Rev. Bill Neely**

**Worship Associate: Courtney Orlando**

**Music: Samuel Stephenson, Interim Music Director; Sue den Outer, Pianist**

### April 27, *Fixing a Broken World*

The Jewish concept known as Tikkun Olam, or "repairing or fixing the world," is defined by acts of kindness performed to repair the world. It is a concept that has become synonymous with all sorts of justice initiatives by calling on people to work toward making the world a better place for future generations. But what does that look like to us as Unitarian Universalists, especially when we may feel broken and in need of repair, and the world's problems seem bigger than ourselves? What can we do to answer the type of call that Tikkun Olam challenges everyone to take up?

**Worship Leader: Pauline Nijander, Seminarian**

**Worship Associate: Jeanne Devoe**

**Music: Samuel Stephenson, Interim Music Director; 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?  
pwd=L3VDOVRPaUVKVUU4TIJsVXlrUVB  
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](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)  
[jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)) for pastoral care and support in times of difficulty and times of celebration.

## 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](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)

## The Good News

### The Good News, Rev. Bill Neely

The cup on concrete  
Asks for change,  
The eyes, for seeing,  
The hands, for touch,  
The ears, for kindness,  
The ground, for cushion,  
The space, for company,  
The heat, for shade,  
The thirst, for water,  
The rot, for balm,  
The shame, for pride,  
The fear, for safety,  
The body, for shelter,  
For care, for food,  
For soap, for love,  
For change.

### 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*



## April Spiritual Theme – The Body 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](mailto:chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org). Our Chalice Circle thoughts and questions around the theme of *The Body* this month are:

“Emotion is created by motion. Whatever you’re feeling right now is related to how you’re using your body.”  
–Tony Robbins

*How do you experience the mind-body connection? What would you like to foster?*

“That game of comparison you play will strip you of the marvel in your story.” –Ariella Estoria

*What affects your opinion of your body?*

*Where is the balance between a perceived need for “improvement” with acceptance?*

“The sheer stocking, the twenty-four-inch waist, the smoldering look have nothing to do with successful mating or procreating, but they say to a man, ‘I’m with it. I have tried to make myself beautiful for you. I’ve gone to a lot of trouble because I think you’re worth it and I like myself. I want you to notice me and want me.’”

–Helen Gurley Brown

*Do you see the double standard for the sexes physicality as getting better or worse?*

*How have you -- knowing or unwittingly -- participated?*

“I was born with this badass body and proud of it.”

–Serena Williams

*When have you been amazed by the remarkable ability of the human body?*

*When have you been proud of your own physical accomplishment?*

### 2025-2026 Pledge Drive: Building a Better Tomorrow

The 2025-2026 Pledge Drive is in full swing, and we’re grateful to all who have already pledged! Our theme this year, Building a Better Tomorrow, focuses on fostering hope and action within our community. The drive ends on March 31, and we invite everyone who hasn’t yet pledged to join in—every contribution, large or small, makes a meaningful difference in sustaining our shared mission.

To inspire you, we’re featuring heartfelt testimonials from fellow members. Tom Prusa shared how his giving reflects his values and the role UU Princeton plays in his life, while Lydia Rieck spoke to the ways UU Princeton nurtures community and supports justice. These testimonials have already been shared and can be viewed on the UU Princeton YouTube page. Don’t miss our upcoming testimonials from David Avasthi and Carol Allen, who is celebrating 60 years of membership at UU Princeton!

Make your pledge today by filling out a pledge card, emailing Susan at [office@uuprinceton.org](mailto:office@uuprinceton.org) or submitting it online at <https://www.uuprinceton.org/about-giving/pledging>.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us build a thriving, welcoming congregation!

Cindy Funka-Lea & Elizabeth Silverman  
2025/2026 UU Princeton Pledge Co-Chairs

## Children and Youth Ministry

### April 2025: Children and Youth Ministry

Join us for our **all ages Passover Seder on Sat. April 19 at 6:30pm**. Please see the announcement further in this newsletter for more information. All welcome, including members not of Jewish background.



Join us for our **annual Spring Egg Hunt after service on Sunday, April 20**. Friends, neighbors, & family welcome.

**We are collecting candy donations until Sun., April 6:**

Please donate treats that can fit inside eggs

Due to allergies: **NO NUTS, SEEDS or NUT BUTTERS**

Vegan options appreciated

We encourage sustainable palm oil (for chocolates, etc.). Learn why: <https://rspo.org/why-sustainable-palm-oil/>

Candies that use sustainable palm oil: <https://www.zoo.org/palmoil>

Drop off in Robinson Lounge on table next to Children's activity area

Our gratitude to our 5th-7th grade Windows & Mirrors youth who, along with their leaders, will be helping to organize our egg hunt this year!

**Save the Date for our Children & Youth Ministry Celebration Sunday Service on May 18, 2025.** All of our children have the opportunity to take part in the service: some lighting the chalice, others helping to lead our Wonder & Wisdom, and still others sharing reflections on what they've been experiencing together this past year. This service also recognizes our dedicated program volunteers.

### April's Children and Youth Schedule

April 2025	
Sunday, April 6	<b>Gatherings by age group.</b> OWL Session 21: 10:30-12pm at <b>UU Princeton</b>
Sunday, April 13	Earth Day all ages worship. No gatherings.  <i>OWL does not meet today.</i> <b>YoUUth Group meets from 4pm-6pm at the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills in Somerville, NJ</b>
Sunday, April 20	<b>Gatherings by age group.</b> <i>Followed by Spring Egg Hunt. Easter Sunday.</i>  <i>OWL does not meet today.</i>
Sunday, April 27	<b>Gatherings by age group.</b>  OWL Session 22: 10:30-12pm at <b>UU Princeton</b>

*(Continued on page 5)*

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### 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](mailto:jennifer@uuprinceton.org) or 609-924-1604, ext. 118 if I can be of support.

With abiding love, Rev. Jennifer

### Recent Books/Stories Used in “Wonder & Wisdom”

February 23: Question Box Sunday

March 2: SKYWOMAN FALLING\* as told by Robin Wall Kimmerer in *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

\*Adapted from oral tradition and Shenandoah and George, 1988.

March 9: *I Am We* by Susan Verde, illustrations by Peter H. Reynolds

March 16: *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak

## 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 in Skylights and on the [uuprinceton.org](https://www.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.



Dear Reader, It is hoped that this will be a small series of articles that will give you the interesting history of some of our main rooms. Carl

## UU Princeton History

### The Fahs Theatre — Then and Now

This is a re-telling of the unlikely story of how “The Small Auditorium” came into being. When our two church buildings were united, there was a need for a “children’s worship room.” What was wanted was “a room big enough to hold a 100 young ones [sitting on the floor] but small enough not to intimidate them.”

“It was not supposed to be a chapel or look like a chapel, but it wasn’t supposed to be just another room nor look like any other room. It was supposed to be their special place....which would easily enhance one candle and a rose, or a puppet show or films, and children singing, talking, dancing.”

The Sophia Fahs Theatre [The Small Aud as opposed to the Big Aud] was designed by James Hull Miller, who had designed 100 theaters in the US — often rooms with dual use or multi-uses: school cafeterias with a stream separating eating/audience spaces. Because he had never done a church, he designed our room pro bono.

So Fahs, “a room like no other,” became very special in our church and in our town. That is another story. However, it’s special placement of being a few steps down, became an issue as our concern for physically challenged people took hold. This structural problem became a cause that searched for an answer.

A dramatic proposal was made by a pair of architects hired to improve our building. They suggested raising the entire Fahs Theatre to the height of the first floor, so wheelchair access would be smooth. However, it also meant that the ceiling/roof over Fahs would have to be raised, another costly change.

In our current redesign of the building, the Fahs “problem,” was not solved at first. It was proposed that a “wheelchair lift” be installed where the wider steps descended. Also suggested was that a long curving ramp be built from near the door of Founder’s Room to where the wider steps were. Both had problems and were rejected.

An idea that floated around was to provide box seats overlooking Fahs for those in wheelchairs. This solution is now built, thanks to Peter Macholdt’s ability in containing construction costs. The box seat area is built. It is located in the corridor formerly housing our two restrooms.

— Carl Haag

## HELP GROW UU by becoming a Chalice Lighter!

The Chalice Lighter Grant program exists to offer individuals a way to sustain and promote Unitarian Universalism in the Central East Region through small, regular financial contributions. Gathered together, these contributions fund Chalice Lighter Grants for projects that will enliven congregations so that they and Unitarian Universalism will thrive now and in the future.

### How to become a Chalice Lighter:

- 1) Sign up in April in the lobby after services. You can use the QR code to link to the sign up form.
  - 2) Look for three Chalice Lighters calls or emails per year that will announce the results of a grant-giving session (there are currently three per year, giving approximately two grants of \$20,000 at each session).
  - 3) Reply to each of these calls/emails with a small pledge. The current suggested pledge is \$20 per person per call, or \$60 per year for an individual and \$120 per year for a couple (many Chalice Lighters pay for a year at a time to simplify record keeping). Pledges of more or less are welcome.
- THE FIRST 20 TO SIGN UP FROM OUR CONGREGATION GET A SPECIAL GIFT!**



Chalice Lighters

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, April 11 at 12 noon. Keep an eye on your email for the Zoom link. No sign-up needed.

### Men's Group

The UU Princeton Men's Group gathers for connection and conversation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:emoore42@gmail.com)), Irene Donne ([irene.donne@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Our final meeting for the year:**

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

Happy Reading!

Contact [peggy.matthews@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:herb_foster@yahoo.com) to join the Evergreen CUUPS mailing list, or to Jennifer Santos at [jsantoscnm@verizon.net](mailto:jsantoscnm@verizon.net) or Kate Foster at [subligaria@yahoo.com](mailto:subligaria@yahoo.com). Co-Convenors, with questions.

### Adult Faith Development- What's in the Bible?

Our discussion of the Hebrew Scriptures continues on April 6 and 13 which should take us through *Exodus* and perhaps into *Leviticus*. On April 20, we'll switch gears for one Sunday and discuss some of the resurrection prophecies and stories in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, before picking up where we left off with *Leviticus* in May (we won't meet on April 27). Come to one or all of the sessions, 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](http://www.uuprinceton.org).

### Ushering Ministry

The Ushering Ministry is looking for help with ushering. If interested, please contact Judy Vee at [judyvee@gmail.com](mailto:judyvee@gmail.com) or Jennifer Klon at [jennklon@gmail.com](mailto:jennklon@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto: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 April 17, 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 Chris Sturm, Policy Director for Land Use at New Jersey Future. Chris will speak on "How Better Land Use Creates Better Lives and a More Just, Healthy, and Prosperous New Jersey." Her talk will address the importance of well-designed compact downtowns for protecting the environment, mitigating climate change, and making housing more affordable. She will describe initiatives to change state policy and related issues in this year's gubernatorial race. Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions and discuss the issues. New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes sensible and equitable growth, redevelopment, and infrastructure investments to foster healthy, strong, resilient communities.

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](mailto:bjashwood@gmail.com).

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:JodyM1025@gmail.com) if you'd like to help deliver food to Arm in Arm.



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:caring4neighbors@uuprinceton.org))

**Immigration Task Force** – assists immigrants, refugees and sanctuary seekers. Michele Ochsner, [sanctuary@uuprinceton.org](mailto:sanctuary@uuprinceton.org),

**Ministry for the Earth** – acts to preserve earth's resources at UU Princeton and among individuals. Ray Nichols [earthministry@uuprinceton.org](mailto: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](mailto:racialjustice@uuprinceton.org)

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

**HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.**

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

نفرت کے لئے یہاں کوئی گھر نہیں ہے  
الكره ليس له بيت هنا





## Ministry for the Earth

### Celebrate Earth Day early this year on Sunday APRIL 13th

**4/13 Earth Ministry presents a new FUN & FREE ECO RAFFLE for all attendees.** Come in for a chance to win one of our very special earth-friendly prizes! Tickets will be given out at the 10:30 service and the drawing will take place after the service in Fahs Theater. There will also be an additional surprise giveaway in the lobby for all UU Princeton members to enjoy.

#### 4/13 Fahs Theater 12-2pm

**After the Eco Raffle, stay a short while to raise your eco awareness with two short films.**

##### **The Story of Stuff (21min)**

A fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world.

##### **The Story of Plastic (4min short)**

This very concise animated short pulls back the curtain on the plastic pollution headlines, revealing the true causes and consequences of the global plastics crisis.

#### 4/24 (Thurs.) Fahs Theater 6:00-8:30

**(check website calendar to confirm date)**

##### **Earth Ministry Film Screening: BUY NOW**

Join The Earth Ministry and Conscious Consumers for a screening of BUY NOW.

This popular Netflix hit is a subversive documentary that unpacks the tricks brands use to keep their customers consuming — and the real impact they have on our lives and the world. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided.

### You Are What You Eat:

Earth month (April) is a great time to consider improving your diet

As we enter the growing season in North America, freshly grown and harvested fruits and vegetables become more available. When grown locally, less energy is used to get them to your local market. One way to reduce greenhouse-generating gases and to get heart-healthy foods is to buy locally grown or raised foods. Even better is to support organic farmers who grow fruits and vegetables grown without the use of pesticides and with natural fertilizers.

Fortunately for us there are a number of organic farmers in Central Jersey. The Earth Ministry is producing a list of certified organic farmers which will be available in April in the lobby and posted on our website ([www.uuprinceton.org](http://www.uuprinceton.org)).



### Help Reduce Heat Islands in Trenton by Planting Trees

**May 3, 9am-12pm rain or shine**

The Urban Airshed Reforestation Program will be planting 40 trees in Trenton and needs 70 volunteers to help.

Volunteers must sign up in advance. Tools and gloves provided. Wear closed-toed shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Find out more about this event at [www.njtreestrees.org](http://www.njtreestrees.org). Anyone interested in volunteering should call (856) 287-4488 or contact Crystal Wessel at [cwessel@njtreefoundation.org](mailto:cwessel@njtreefoundation.org)

### What Are Heat Islands and How Can They Be Mitigated?

Whenever air temperatures rise, cities become even hotter than nearby suburban areas, becoming what are known as "Heat Islands." Planting trees in cities can help reduce the heat islands. Most noticeably trees provide cooling by providing shade and transpiring water vapor. They also provide energy conservation, air quality improvement, carbon dioxide reduction, storm-water control, and increase property values. Thus, they are a crucial tool for communities to improve health, safety, and comfort.



### How's Your Lent Challenge Going?

Lent for the Earth Challenge runs through April 17. We thank everyone who has participated this year and we hope some part of this practice rubs off on you for a longer time. Stay tuned for more UU Princeton Conscious Consumers monthly challenges in May!

### Earth Ministry meeting to prepare for April 13<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Service Activities

April 6, 12pm-1:30pm Lower Lounge Ministry members and other volunteers are welcome to join in and help out.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:Kevintrayner@gmail.com) or [fetter4@verizon.net](mailto:fetter4@verizon.net).

## NEW UU Princeton 50/50 Raffle Spring Fundraiser!

Enter for three chances to win large cash prizes & to help raise money for our congregation! Get your 50/50 Spring Raffle tickets after service in the lounge each Sunday in April. Grab another bundle to resell to friends and family; the more we sell, the more you can win! (And the more UU Princeton wins too!) Also, the more we sell up-front, the easier it will be to sell even more tickets before the drawing, so don't delay- get your tickets today!



Tickets are \$20 each and will also be sold adjacent to our Spring Sale 5/2 & 5/3. The drawing will take place at 1pm on May 3 at UU Princeton. Need not be present to win. 1st prize 25% of plate, 2nd prize 15% of plate, 3rd prize 10% of plate. The remaining 50% of the plate will benefit UU Princeton.

No importa de dónde eres, estamos contentos que seas nuestro vecino.  
No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor.  
ከየትም ደምጡ ጎረቤታችን በመሆንዎት ደስተኞቻችን!

# Only a few weeks away! SPRING SALE

Friday, May 2 & Saturday, May 3  
All proceeds go to our Social Justice

## Activities.

**VOLUNTEER!** Many helpers are needed to make our huge Spring Sale a success. Please join the fun. Plenty of ways to help during *Set-up week* (starting April 27) and on both *Sale Days!* **SIGN UP** Sundays at the **SPRING SALE TABLE** or **SignUpGenius** on the UU Princeton web site ([www.uuprinceton.org](http://www.uuprinceton.org)).

**DONATE!** Dust off your unused, stored-away household goods, clothes, furniture, jewelry, antiques, crystal, china, art & posters, electronics, linens, small appliances, dishes, kids' books, trinkets, toys & games, sports equipment, gardening tools! Please, only **items, in good working-condition.** *NO winter clothing, tires, mattresses, old-style TVs/monitors, damaged furniture.*

► **IF IT'S STAINED OR BROKEN – TOSS IT!!**

**IMPORTANT:** Submit photos and descriptions of higher-value items and any furniture needing Pick-up Service ASAP to: [SpringSale@UUPrinceton.org](mailto:SpringSale@UUPrinceton.org). This will allow our Market Research Team to evaluate, price, and promote your items most effectively. -- Cathy, Kirsten, Teri, & Emma

**PRE-ORDER PLANTS:** Receive a **10% discount** if you pre-order! Fill out order form, tally up your total, **deduct 10%**, and write a check to UUCP, or **order online** at [www.uuprinceton.org](http://www.uuprinceton.org). **Deadline** for pre-orders is **Friday, April 4th.**

**PICK-UP SERVICE:** We can help bring in **heavy or bulky items** to UUCP. **FIRST: Email photos and a description ASAP to [SpringSale@UUPrinceton.org](mailto:SpringSale@UUPrinceton.org).** Then, contact **Kevin Trayner** to schedule a pick-up time ([kevintrayner@gmail.com](mailto:kevintrayner@gmail.com), 609-532-8328).

**MANY THANKS to ALL BOOTH & ACTIVITY CHAIRS!**  
**Important Chairs Meeting: Sunday, April 13 @noon in Founders Room.** Please join us for important updates and to answer questions. Volunteers are welcome, so please invite your key helpers!  
– Cathy, Kirsten, Teri, & Emma

## Celebrations Ministry - Seder

**Saturday April 19th - 6:30 - 8:30pm**  
**UU Princeton - Founders Room**

All members/families and friends - whether you are of Jewish background or not - all ages are welcome to participate in a UU Princeton tradition. A dinner of Passover foods, reading of UU Haggadah, singing of Passover songs and planned activities for children.

The cost is \$5 per person (children are free) please bring a dish to share and your own Passover beverage (wine), if you desire. Assist where able to set up, serve and clean-up. (Food guidelines provided on the Sign-up Genius.) Let us know if you have any food requirements - and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Please use this link for Sign-up Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A8A629A46-55773324-seder>

If questions - do not hesitate to contact: Rev Jennifer ([jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jennifer@uuprinceton.org)) or [celebrations@uuprinceton.org](mailto:celebrations@uuprinceton.org)

## Caring for Our Neighbors



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](mailto:JodyM1025@gmail.com).

**Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.**

**Public and Private Spaces** - While our congregation hosts many public activities (worship services, meetings, community events, etc.), there are several spaces that are officially designated “private” spaces. Access to these private spaces is limited to those engaging in the religious work of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, as well as all other law enforcement officials, must produce a judicial warrant to enter these private spaces. These private spaces are the Main Office, the Minister’s Office, the Assistant Minister’s Office, the Music Ministry Office, and the Sexton’s Office.

## News and action to take to support immigrant rights

We wanted to highlight two items on **immigrant rights**, that 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=IwY2xjawIYPqFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQ68x1h\\_u1\\_migdeelLh\\_ArmtKe4S1Qn9HXZzsc0YGjni8CCla5SblEqWQ\\_aem\\_W\\_raicJLoj3xn6il6d0EMQ](https://cwsglobal.org/press-releases/cws-challenges-suspension-of-refugee-resettlement-program-and-freeze-of-refugee-funding/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIYPqFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQ68x1h_u1_migdeelLh_ArmtKe4S1Qn9HXZzsc0YGjni8CCla5SblEqWQ_aem_W_raicJLoj3xn6il6d0EMQ)

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/>

## 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.

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## Welcome Our Newest Members

We are so pleased to welcome **Brigitte Castonguay and Mai Himedon**, 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](mailto:Bill@UUPrinceton.org)). And mark your calendars for our next New to UU program on April 13 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. We'd love to see you there!

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](mailto:office@uuprinceton.org). We look forward to getting to know you better.**

### Names & Numbers

**Rev. Bill Neely**

[bill@uuprinceton.org](mailto:bill@uuprinceton.org)  
Parish Minister ext. 111

**Rev. Jennifer Kelleher**

[jennifer@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jennifer@uuprinceton.org)  
Assistant Minister ext. 118

**Pauline E. Nijander**

[pauline@uuprinceton.org](mailto:pauline@uuprinceton.org)  
Seminarian ext. 114

**Patricia Hennigan**

[patricia@uuprinceton.org](mailto:patricia@uuprinceton.org)  
Seminarian ext. 113

**Samuel Stephenson**

[Stephen@uuprinceton.org](mailto:Stephen@uuprinceton.org)  
Music Director ext. 116

**Jorge Garcia Salas**

[jorge@uuprinceton.org](mailto:jorge@uuprinceton.org)  
Sexton ext. 119 or 609-954-7789

**Susan Langkafel**

[susan@uuprinceton.org](mailto:susan@uuprinceton.org)  
Administrator ext. 110

Office Hours: Varies  
Please call or e-mail.

Phone: 609-924-1604

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[office@uuprinceton.org](mailto:office@uuprinceton.org)

Web page:

<http://www.uuprinceton.org>

### Famous Unitarian Universalists

- Maria Mitchell, the first female astronomer
- Christopher Reeve, actor and activist
- Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the internet

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
INTERESTING FACT

### Land Acknowledgement

The land and waterways upon which the congregants of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton gather and live are the ancestral and unceded Lenapehoking territory of the Lenni-Lenape nation. We honor the contributions of their ancestors, those now in the diaspora, and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Ramapough Lenape and Powhatan Renape who continue to live in the area we call New Jersey. We pledge to work with them to dismantle the legacy of oppression of Indigenous Peoples and to live in harmony.

### Next *Skylights* Deadline:

**April 16, 2024**

**Submissions due for the  
May 2025  
ISSUE**

[skylights@uuprinceton.org](mailto:skylights@uuprinceton.org)