

DEC
2019

Parish Notes

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord



Special Congregational Meeting

WARRANT

December 22, 2019

To all members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord:

You are hereby notified that a Special Meeting of the Church will be held on Sunday, December 22, 2019 in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the regular church service, to consider and act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1 To authorize that 50% (\$25,000) of the legacy gift of Joan & Tom McNamara be withdrawn from the endowment to be used as follows:

- Audio Visual Fund - \$10,000
- Grounds Beautification/Garden Enhancement - \$3,000
- Memorial Garden Fund - \$2,000
- Classroom Enhancement - \$5,000
- Minister's Discrete Fund - \$5,000

(A 2/3 majority vote of approval by the members present would be necessary to pass ARTICLE 1.)

ARTICLE 2 To receive and utilize an anticipated disbursement of approximately \$9,000 from the Lilo Masters Fund as follows:

1. Increase this year's Operating Budget Income by \$4,000 to fund anticipated extra health insurance expenses.
2. Place the remainder of this gift (~\$5,000) in the Audio Visual Fund

(A simple majority vote of approval by the members present would be necessary to pass ARTICLE 2.)

Anne Drewniak

Chair, Board of Trustees

Interested people are welcome to come to the meeting and may speak when proerly recognized by the moderator, but may not vote unless their name is included on the list of members posted in the church 15 days in advance of the meeting, pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the church's Bylaws.

See page 12 for more information.

CONNECTING IN LOVE AND SERVICE
GROWING SPIRITUALLY
TRANSFORMING OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

December Worship Services

Livestream our worship services at concorduu.org/live

December 1 | 10 am | “What We Always Did...” | Kay Read & Rick Mitchell

The Holidays are saturated with traditions. Many of us fondly remember the annual holiday rituals we had as kids. Their yearly reappearance could give us a feeling of stability and belonging, maybe even a sense of generational identity. Any disruption of “what we always did” could quickly lead to loud protests. Those traditions enhanced our sense of security in a changing world; after all, that’s what traditions do, right? For better or for worse, they’re the stable bits of granite in an impermanent universe. Yet over time and for better or for worse, our holiday customs do change. We’ll hear from Rick Mitchell, Betsy Black and Kay Read about what happened when their own cherished, “unchanging” holiday traditions shifted.

Our first Sunday drop-in covenant group will focus on our monthly theme of “Impermanence.”

All are invited to participate. Rev. Lyn Marshall will facilitate.

Thursday, December 5, 2019 | 2 pm | “After We Die” UU Worship Service at Havenwood Heritage Heights, 33 Christian Ave, Concord

We know our bodies will be alive for just a few more years/decades at the most. So what happens to us after our bodies die? Given that none of us know from personal experience - what are the options? Which option is most appealing (to you)? Which narrative best works for you?

December 8 | 10 am | “When Impermanence Hurts” | Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

There would be no life without impermanence. Life depends on the continual transformation of one form of energy into another. We embrace these changes when it comes to food, the seasons, the sun. Yet we struggle when faced with the same dynamic in our relationships, our health, our identities, our inevitable encounter(s) with death. How do we deal with the fear? What can we do when impermanence hurts? Our service will include a ritual that acknowledges the losses we currently carry in our hearts. And I invite you to join me for a 2nd Hour exploration of what you believe happens after you die.

December 8 | 7 pm | “Taize @ Concord UU” | Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

A time for meditation, reflection, and renewal through music, brief words, and silence. Come sing, light a candle, and nurture your spirit during this non-traditional worship experience. **Runs Oct thru April.**

December 15 | 10 am | “In Praise of Impermanence” | Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

The existence and evolution of life is a function of the impermanent nature of all that is. Similarly, an awareness and embrace of the impermanence of all aspects of our lives and the lives around us is essential to the quality of our life experience. Understanding that all pleasant as well as unpleasant experiences are temporary opens the door to meeting each moment with greater equanimity. It allows us to separate the manageable pain of the moment from the overwhelming suffering created by our mind’s story of our past or the anxiety and fear generated by our narratives of the future. Hallelujah impermanence!

December 22 | 10 am | “The Transient & Permanent” | Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

On May 19, 1841, Theodore Parker delivered one of the most famous sermons of the Unitarian tradition “The Transient and Permanent in Christianity.” His sermon proclaimed that even if Jesus had never lived the core insights of Christianity would still be true. Not having Jesus as a teacher or an authority on the truth is okay because he merely points to the truth and, thus, is a part of the transient attempts to discover what is permanently true. We know our physical forms, our bodies, are transient. Yet is there something about our essence, our being, that is permanent? And what would that mean?

December 29 | 10 am | “Turn Turn Turn” | Rick Mitchell & Linda Williams

As 2019 turns into 2020, come and sing hymns identified by congregants that have brought joy and solace permanently (or at least for a long time) to many - and hear stories of how the fleeting experience of music has had a lasting impact on our ever changing realities.

Please see back cover for the Holiday Worship Services



SECOND HOUR

| LEARNING

| SERVICE

| PRACTICE

Second Hour Adult Faith Development

December 8 | 11:30-12:30 pm Choose from:

TED Talk & Discussion | Watch a TED talk on our worship theme of Impermanence and participate in a facilitated discussion.

Spiritual Practice | Join in a guided meditation practice for all levels of experience. Leader to be announced.

After We Die | A facilitated conversation about our beliefs, fears, hopes, thoughts about what we imagine will happen after death, led by Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

December 15 | 11:30-12:30 pm Choose from:

TED Talk & Discussion | Watch a TED talk on our worship theme of Impermanence and participate in a facilitated discussion led by Joanna Henderson.

Spiritual Practice | Join in a guided movement meditation practice for all levels of experience. Leader to be announced.

Needle Felting | Jennifer Roff will lead participants through the process of creating a needle-felted ornament. Whether you are an experienced felter or a curious learner, you will leave with a completed project. All materials will be provided - you bring the laughter and camaraderie of creating with our hands.

Class | Watch the eBulletin for details still being worked out at Parish Notes publication time.

No-Rehearsal Pageant!

We will be reprising the popular No-Rehearsal Pageant for our 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service this year. All are welcome to come a little early, choose a costume, and join the living Nativity we create through story and song during the service. We do pre-cast the lead roles of Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus, and I am willing to consider requests for other roles from deeply committed shepherds, angels, Magi, etc. Please contact Rev. Lyn Marshall, lyn@concorduu.org, if there is a special part you would love to play this year and I'll do my best to accommodate your calling.



The Season of Giving at Concord UU

Here's a summary of the many opportunities for giving this holiday season.

UU Thanksgiving Dinner

*Thank you to all who put together such a fun and delicious meal and time to connect. **CHEERS!***

Thanksgiving baskets for families in need

*What a wonderful effort to give to families. Thank you for all your donations and time. **So special!***

Greens Fair | Pg 9

Wreath decorations & gently used/new winter/holiday themed items

Now till Dec 5, to two boxes under the coat rack

For more info: Erika Downie

Boys & Girls Club Shopping Spree | Pg 8

Gently used/new gifts (unwrapped) to allow kids to select holiday gifts for their families

Dec 1 to 15, to the benches in the Chapel

For more info: Peggy Herbert

UU Friends of Refugees Giving Tree | Pg 9

New gifts (wrapped) based on the tags you take from the Giving Tree

December 1 thru 15, to Room 6

For more info: Christina Oliva or David Canfield

Friendly Kitchen | Sox for the Needy

\$5 gift cards to McDonalds or Dunkins & all sizes of unwrapped wool socks for Friendly Kitchen guests.

Containers will be in the parlor until December 15

For more info: Fran Philippe

Caroling for the Homeless | Dec 21

Come and gather for an evening of Caroling for the Homeless. We'll meet in the parlor at 5:50 and then sing with our Family Promise families at 6:00, followed by the Friends Family Shelter at 6:30, McKenna House at 7:00 and then off to the Cold Weather Shelter.

An evening of giving and receiving.

For more info: Fran Philippe



Lifespan Faith Development

Whether December delights you or depresses you, I can assure you of this: it will not last. Many of us will decorate our homes for Solstice, Hanukkah, and/or Christmas (if we haven't already), remembering holidays past as we bring out candles, ornaments, maybe those cookie-cutters that only get used once a year. We will sing songs we associate with these holidays, perhaps host or attend parties. We may stress over the perfect gift for that child on the cusp of adulthood or a beloved elder who really, REALLY doesn't want any more stuff. We may grieve for someone who won't be at our festivities this year. Our worship theme for December is Impermanence - acknowledging, and feeling the spiritual weight and freedom of the fact that this, too, shall pass. We will pack the special things away, January will come, and the universe will continue to unfold.

This doesn't mean we shouldn't hang our stockings, or light the menorah, or curl up in bed with a stack of good books, waiting for the days to lengthen. There is value in ritual, remembrance, and tradition - and how can we grow in our capacity to hold this complexity and stay present, grounded, and compassionate as the world evolves and changes?

Our children will be exploring the topic of Awe in their Soul Matters Sunday School circles. What gives us goosebumps? What stops us in our tracks with its beauty, provokes deep wonder, maybe even frightens us with its immensity? As we pass through the shortest day and the longest night, celebrate the miracle of light that does not go out when we did not have enough oil to last, wonder at the birth of a baby who grew into a spiritual teacher whose lessons continue to reverberate two thousand years later, may we make space for wonder at all that has been, is now, and will be - and may we find peace and compassion for ourselves and each other in the present moment.

Happy holidays,

Lyn

The Farmers' Almanac predicts

“colder-than-normal temperatures in the Northeast and above-normal precipitation” this year!

Sunday mornings

If a serious storm is expected to create dangerous road conditions on a Sunday morning, our Ministers will decide whether worship (and Second Hour/Sunday School if applicable) should be cancelled. Our target for making such a decision is 7 am, and at the very latest 7:30.

We know how important our services are to many of you, so we are very cautious about a cancellation decision. To prevent our staff or volunteers traveling in dangerous road conditions, the church will remain locked if the service is canceled. So if you should wake up on a Sunday morning to a snow or ice storm in progress or imminent, please check one or more of the following channels for church cancellation:

1. **go to our website** www.concorduu.org - our webmaster Lorraine Ellis will post a notice there.
2. **check your email** - if you are on the eBulletin mailing list, an email with cancellation notice will be sent to you. If you're not yet on the email list, you can sign up at www.concorduu.org (at the bottom of the home page)
3. **check the church's Facebook page** [Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord (NH)]
4. **call the church 224-0291**, then press 4# -- if church is cancelled, a message will be posted on Lea Smith's voice mail recording
5. **WMUR-TV Channel 9 TV & website**, cancellations are posted on a crawl at the bottom of the screen and can be looked up quickly on their website-- we will be listed as "Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord"

For events other than Sundays

Group leaders are responsible to decide whether to cancel their group, and should let their group members know. The church parking lot is regularly plowed until 10pm, but walkways may or may not be shoveled/sanded when you arrive. Shovels and sand buckets are provided at the entrances. Group leaders should email Lea at lea@concorduu.org if you are cancelling so office staff can help keep folks informed of your cancellation via our church calendar, voice mail greeting, and Facebook. (We do not use WMUR except on Sundays.)



Reminder: You Might Get a Phone Call

Don't be surprised if you get a phone call from a Board member, Pastoral Care Associate, Minister or staff, for no reason other than to see how you are doing and let you know we care. Every Member and Friend may receive up to two phone calls per year. As Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger shared in his October Minister's Musings, “[Sometimes] members and friends, some of whom have been with us for years and even decades, feel neglected, disconnected, and/or drift away without anyone reaching out to check-in, to listen, to show that we care. It seems time to be more systematic about how we stay connected with one another - whether someone is drifting away, is just starting to get involved, or is deeply engaged at present.”

The call might at first feel awkward for you, and maybe for the caller, especially if you don't know each other. Eventually we believe these calls will become part of our culture of caring, and increase our ability to give and receive care and support in times of joy and sorrow.

Winter Solstice/Yule Dec 20 @ 7 pm

The time for one of our most charming ceremonies has nearly arrived, the annual Winter Solstice service!

We'll have music, candles, songs and the enchanting Stag Dance!

The Winter Solstice has been celebrated for millennia by cultures all over the world. Many of our traditions are descended in spirit from more ancient religions and honor the divine as manifesting in nature, the turning of the seasons, and the powerfully cyclical nature of life. The Solstice is a powerful symbol that the darkest days are behind us (literally) and the new light of a new year comes.

We invite all of our friends, old and new, to join us for a night of spirit and fun and celebration. We will share the story of the fading and return of the light. There will be music and meditation with an opportunity to reflect on the year ending and the promise of the new year. There will be dancing, both the stag dance and a closing dance with songs and merriment for everyone who attends. The Earth Centered Spirituality Group looks forward to seeing you all.

Please bring snacks (that do not require heating) and drinks to share for the social hour after the service. You may work up an appetite from the final dance! If you do bring food (especially homemade), please include a card with allergens or ingredients and whether it's gluten-free, vegan, etc. Food items will be placed in the Parlor on designated tables.

If you arrive early, please park in the Concord Orthopaedics lot to free up space for late comers. We filled the Sanctuary last year, and plan to do so again!

And please pray/spell/wish/stir for clear weather so we can make the final offering in the Grove immediately following the service. Should the weather prove untenable on Friday December 20th, the snow date is Sunday, December 22nd at 7pm.

The church will be hosting families inside the church for Family Promise Week. Please enter the church via the Sanctuary if possible and enter and exit quietly to decrease disturbances to the families in residence during this time. Thank you for your consideration.

If you would like to be a part of the Solstice celebration, as a speaker, dancer, musician, usher or general help, please contact the ECSG directly at paganways@uuecsg.org with your availability and interest. Rehearsals are scheduled for each Sunday in December (check the calendar).

Community Plate Update | Meeting Sunday, December 15 | 9 am

Does the Community Plate Committee find there are too many good causes to support?

Absolutely!

How can you help us make decisions?

Add your voice.

What organizations inspire you?

Church members and staff are encouraged to either fill out a blue request form, come to our monthly meeting, or email me: deborahbruss@mac.com

We also welcome new members.

And when we still have too many choices, we discuss which programs are most effective, often choosing more local organizations over larger ones.

Join us at our next meeting.

-Deb Bruss



A Community Plate Thank You from Families in Transition

“Thank you for your participation in our **Wicked FIT RUN** 2019 fundraiser. Your contribution of **\$463.00** will greatly impact individuals and families in our program.... In 2018, we were able to **provide shelter to 1,328 individuals, of whom 143 were children.** Successes like these are thanks to our supporters like you.”

Warm regards,
Cathy Kohn

Wrestling Jerusalem Film & Discussion

Building a Culture of Peace Forum Sunday, December 15 at 1:00 pm

In a tour-de-force performance, writer-actor Aaron Davidman conjures a host of different characters while seeking answers to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in **WRESTLING JERUSALEM**.

Creatively adapting his acclaimed one-man stage show using only simple props and backdrops, Davidman takes a multidimensional journey into the heart of the Middle East, and the intersection of politics, identity and spiritual yearning. He embodies and gives voice to 17 different characters on all sides of the existential divide—deftly moving between male and female, Jewish and Muslim, Israeli and Arab—modeling what it takes truly to bear witness through the eyes of the other.

Second-Hour Luncheon Hosts Needed

Do you love to cook? Might you consider hosting or co-hosting a congregational luncheon for a Second Hour Sunday this coming winter or spring? You'll be following in the footsteps these folks who have hosted or will host though January of this church year: Anne Drewniak, Paula Van de Werken & David Canfield, Betsy Black & Cathy Menard, Geoff & Heather Terragni, Marti & Clay Savoy & Emmett Leblanc, Judi & Jeff Abbe, Gary Schroeder, Belinda Nerl & Rik Yeames, Kelly Mahony, and Bob Gabrielli. **Contact Luncheon Team Leader Franz Vail** at franzvailengineer@gmail.com.





Boys and Girls Club Shopping Spree Reminder

Peg Herbert

A reminder that our church will be sponsoring the annual holiday shopping spree at the Concord Boys and Girls Club on **Tuesday December 17**. The club continues to be not only receptive but deeply appreciative of our commitment to this event. So what can you do?

1. **Collect gently used items** that would be appropriate for infants through adults.....Things for men are especially needed.

Here are notes from last year:

- NO Wallets because they did not go
- NO Regular socks because they did not go
- NO Ties because they did not go
- NO Leather fancy gloves because they did not go
- NO PJ's because they did not go
- **Hats are a plus!** Baseball type, any winter knitted hat with or without logo, ski hats.
Everyone! asked for hats-not gloves .
- **Gadgets always a plus!** A small binocular went, small pocket radio, & a cell phone cover went.
- A manly fleece blanket was great



2. **Bring your items to the chapel starting on December 1.** Signs will be posted as to where to put things.

3. **Bring in wrapping paper, and gift tags.**

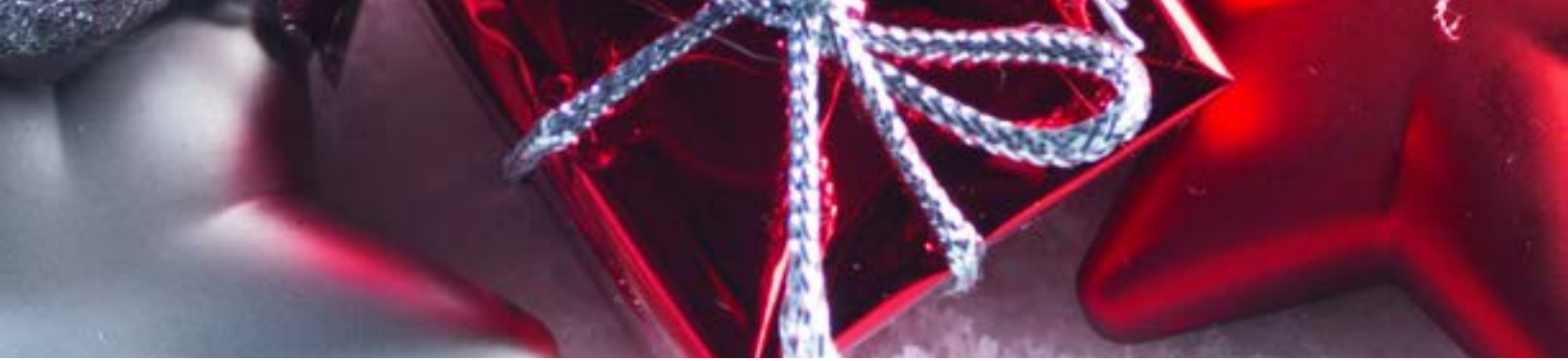
4. **Sign up to help out.** People who have participated in other years always talk about how much they enjoy it. Sign up sheets will be up on December 1 or email me. We need some folks to come to the church at 1:30 to load up all the gifts and transport them to the center and unload and organize things. Others can show up from 2 onward to finish sorting and then helping kids and wrapping presents when they begin coming in at 3:15. You can come for part of the time or the whole afternoon.

If you have any questions, email Peg at pherb46@tds.net or call at 746-3490.

Youth Group Eco/Fair Trade Store

The Youth Group is offering fair trade coffee from our friends at Compas de Nicaragua and a variety of items to help you replace single-use plastics in your life. The funds raised will help offset the costs of their February immersion learning trip to the US/Mexican border in Arizona. Look for them after worship on Sundays.

In early December they will also be selling chocolate from Granite State Candy; place an order and pick it up at church with no waiting in the holiday crowds!



SHARE CHRISTMAS WITH A NEW AMERICAN CHILD

Do you get when you give? Do you enjoy putting a smile on a child's face? Sign up for **UU Friends of Refugees (UUFOR)** Christmas Giving Tree this year! Your simple act of generosity will give joy to a child who might otherwise have little to nothing to open on Christmas.

We'll help you extend welcoming friendship to a new American child who lives in the greater Concord area. All you have to do is select a tag off the Christmas tree in the Parlor **starting Sunday, December 1st**, purchase and wrap a gift **under \$30**, and return the gift with the tag attached **by Sunday, December 15th**. Each tag will have the name, gender and age of a child with some gift suggestions. UUFOR volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children in time for Christmas.

While this community outreach starts with a gift, it doesn't need to end in December. Consider volunteering with new American friends throughout the year. Contact David Canfield dwcandfield1@gmail.com or Christina Oliva oliva.christina@yahoo.com for more information.

UU FRIENDS OF REFUGEES KIDS HOLIDAY PARTY

Inviting all UU children to join children from Concord's new American community for a kids Holiday party in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, December 14th from 10:30 - 12:30 pm**. There will be cookie decorating, card making, ornament painting, music, snacks and of course Santa Claus**. Meet old friends and make new ones at this fun celebration organized by UU Friends of Refugees.

For more information, contact Christina Oliva oliva.christina@yahoo.com or David Canfield dwcandfield1@gmail.com

***Santa will be handing out candy canes only this year. Gifts from the Giving Tree will be solely distributed by UUFOR volunteers.*

Annual Greens and Artisans Fair Saturday December 7!

Volunteers needed!

Can you make.... Cookies for cookie walk, Goodies for the bake sale, pies & soups for the cafe.

Soup... Make a big batch of your signature soup for the soup bar!

PLUS WE NEED... Wreath Decorators! Thursday, December 5

Come as you can. Open all day from 10 am until... we are done.

Drop us a line if you intend to help. Drop us an email if you intend to help but please drop by if your day allows. **Email Jim or Erika Downie** Jdownie@tds.net or Ebdownie@tds.net

General Help for set up on Friday, December 6

See sign-up sheets in the Parlor



“Finish Strong” conversation: Aging Journey Wisdom Circle December 1, 2019 and January 5, 2020

We all want a dignified and peaceful ending to our life journey. But how do we navigate the labyrinth of decision-making and communication involved in the final stages of our life?

There is a fabulous new resource, a compassionate guide to achieving the positive end-of-life experience that we want and deserve – **Finish Strong Putting your Priorities First at Life’s End** by Barbara Coombs Lee. Coombs Lee is a nurse, physician assistant, lawyer, president of Compassion & Choices, and a Unitarian Universalist.

She writes, *“I think of this work as sacred work, work we were born to do, work that, when neglected, will keep us from achieving the joy in life and sense of completion at death that are our birthright.”* Her tireless legislative advocacy and that of Compassion & Choices has made “this work” – the process of choosing and communicating clearly how we want our last days to play out – a matter of personal choice reflecting our values and priorities.

Barbara Coombs Lee invites us to ask more questions and have more conversations with medical personnel and our loved ones about expectations and wishes for life’s last precious months.

Finish Strong will be the focus of our Wisdom Circle conversations for **December 1, 2019 and January 5, 2020**. Please obtain a copy of the book and/or visit website CompassionAndChoices.org. Read a chapter or two or more and visit the website to download “My End-of-Life Decisions An Advance Planning Guide and Toolkit.”

During our Wisdom Circle gatherings we will address your questions and concerns about these tough topics:

- Knowing that DNR orders and “advanced directives” are grossly inadequate in their detail and very often ignored
- Staying off the “overtreatment conveyor belt” when hope for a cure is gone
- Identifying what matters most as advancing illness takes its toll (in the chapter on dementia she poses the jarring question ‘Are you willing

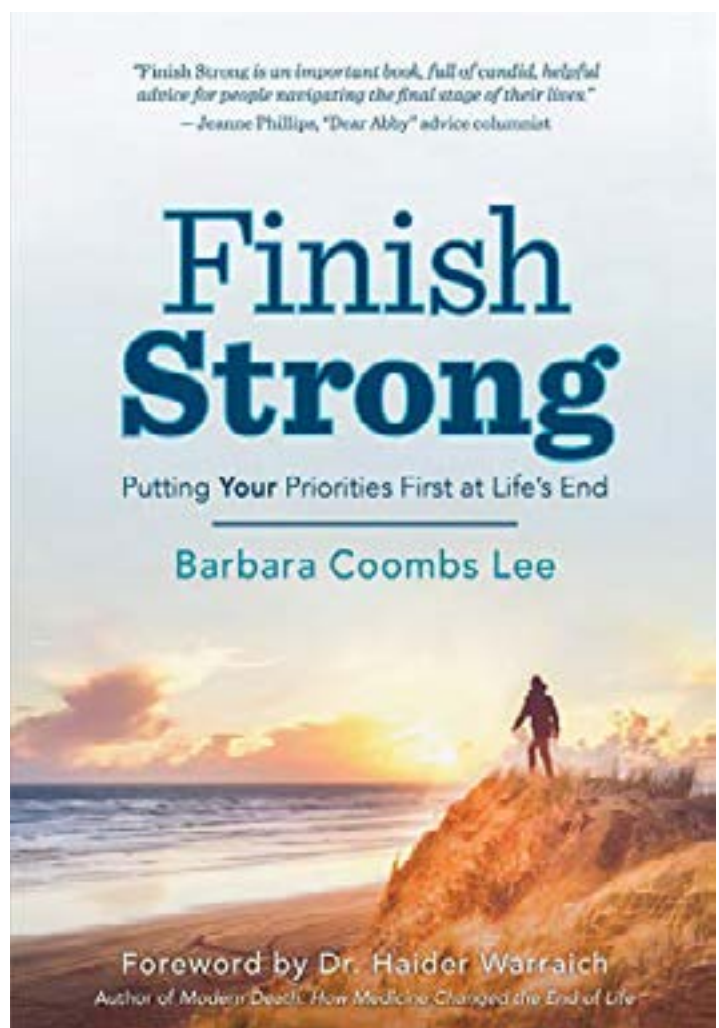
to become another person?’)

- Knowing when “slow medicine” is the best option to maintain quality of life
- Navigating home hospice and the crucial differences between hospice and hospital-based palliative care

“A life coming to closure can provide a profound and sacred lesson in how to live,” Coombs Lee writes. Finish Strong is the best practical guide I know to help us learn and leave the lesson we choose. Come join the Wisdom Circle conversation to learn and share.

Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer, CSL

Linda Williams



We are Worthy of Art Making

by Jeff Dixon, Choir Director

“Music is the universal language of mankind,” wrote the New England poet and educator Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. For thousands of years music has been a means to express the inexpressible. As it is universal and transcends our human culture and time, this form of communication belongs to all of us. Too many of us were told by someone we trusted, “singing or playing music is **not** for you”. My friends, they were utterly mistaken. We are all worthy of music making! You are worthy of a creative outlet, and perhaps church choir is the perfect outlet for you.

The following excerpts are from the wonderful author and speaker Mirabai Starr. She speaks of the generative and valuable process of creating art, especially as a child.



When you were a child, you knew yourself to be co-creator of the universe. But little by little you forgot who you were. When you were a child, everything was about color. Now you pick black as your automatic font color, because that is the coin of the realm. When you were a child, you traveled from place to place by dancing, and now you cultivate stillness, which is great, but you are forgetting how to move to the music of your soul. You can hardly even hear that inner music over the clamor of all your obligations. . .

Yes, you are worthy of art making. Dispense with the hierarchy in your head that silences your own creative voice. . . It is not only your birthright to create, it is your true nature. The world will be healed when you take up your brush and shake your body and sing your heart out. . .

The part of our brains with which we navigate the challenges of the everyday world is uneasy in the unpredictable sphere of art making. We cannot squeeze ourselves through the eye of the needle to reach the land of wild creativity whilst saddled to the frontal cortex, whose job it is to evaluate external circumstances and regulate appropriate behavior. Creativity has a habit of defying good sense. I am not arguing,

however, that the intellect has no place in the creative enterprise. The most intelligent people I know are artists and musicians. Their finely tuned minds are always grappling with some creative conundrum, trying to find ways to translate the music they hear in the concert hall of their heads into some intelligible form that others can grasp and appreciate.

What a creative life demands is that we take risks. They may be calculated risks; they may yield entrepreneurial fruits, or they may simply enrich our own lives. Creative risk taking might not turn our life upside down but, rather, might right the drifting ship of our soul. When we make ourselves available for the inflow of [Spirit], we accept not only her generative power but also her ability to [overcome] whatever stands in the way of our full aliveness.

You do not always have to suffer for art. You are not required to sacrifice everything for beauty. The creative life can be quietly gratifying. The thing is to allow ourselves to become a vessel for a work of art to come through and allow that work to guide our hands. Once we do, we are assenting to a sacred adventure. We are saying yes to the transcendent and embodied presence of the holy.

The Concord UUC Choir is a welcoming and affirming group of regular people who seek to connect and express through music. There are no requirements or auditions to join or perform, simply be willing to add your voice and heart to the group. We all are discovering and cultivating our voices and musicianship every week, and for me the most beautiful aspect of choir singing is the unique sound that every ensemble creates!

We meet in the sanctuary Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm, and 9:00am before service. Come sit in and join us!

Reference: Adapted from Mirabai Starr, *Wild Mercy: Living the Fierce and Tender Wisdom of the Women Mystics* (Sounds True: 2019), 157, 159, 160-161.

Painting by Sera Knight, mixed media. <http://www.seraknight.co.uk/music-paintings/choral-group-elm-bridge-choir.htm>

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 22

A Special Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 22, 2019** to act on two recent Legacy Gifts given to the church through the William Walker Society. These gifts illustrate two types of giving that help to sustain and improve our church through the generosity of our members. (please see the accompanying Warrant on the cover)

Article 1 addresses the gift of Tom and Joan McNamara, in which they left the church a lump sum of \$50,000 from their estate. Their son, Chris Soule, and Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger suggested that in keeping with the McNamaras' desire to support the church, half should remain in the endowment for future growth and the other half should be withdrawn from the endowment to fund projects designed to improve our physical plant, the grounds and to strengthen the Memorial Garden Fund.

This recommendation is endorsed by the Board of Trustees, Finance Team and Operations Leadership Team.

Article 2 is a perpetual annual payout from the Lilo Masters Fund and is made from a percentage of the proceeds of the earnings of the original gift. This type of gift is similar to the Downing and Fernald Trusts which are used to supplement the income for our annual operating budget.

To learn more about the William Walker Society, please pick up a copy of the WWS brochure in the parlor.

I hope to see you at the Special Meeting on **December 22** to insure that we have a quorum so that these funds can be used to support our church community.

Jack Wakelin,
Custodian of the Trust Funds



NEW COMPOST BIN at CHURCH

Thank you for all your compost. Now you have a new place to dump it.

A donated compost bin is now on the grounds of our building for kitchen scraps. LET'S FILL IT UP. The white compost bucket in the kitchen will now go directly to making dirt at church, with your help.

Please Add In:

- Coffee Grounds
- Old cookies, coffee hour waste
- Moldy refrigerator items
- Egg shells
- Apple cores
- Vegetable peels, even citrus peels are fine
- Old flower bouquets

Just Remember- Please no meat or fats.



The white compost bucket in the kitchen can be emptied into the black receptacle sitting outside by the exit off the Storage/Table closet, near Fellowship Hall. Anytime you are in the kitchen, check and see how we are doing, feel free to empty it into the bin outside.

Anyone without a compost at home, your much needed home compost is still welcome at church. It can now go directly to the compost bin outside if you like, or added to the white bucket in the kitchen.

Exciting News-As a church we are now composting the used paper towels in the unisex bathroom, too.

Any questions? Ask Belinda Nerl, bjnerl@comcast.net

Transforming Our World



Creating a Listening Community: Restorative Circles Facilitation Training

In the fall of 2008, a group of members of our UU community began a journey towards learning how we might listen for deeper meaning, when conflict arises, in order to co-create a plan to resolve conflict. Our experience has shown that conflict comes when there are hurt feelings, and unmet needs among community members. The practice of reflective listening changed our community life and our life experience. Committee decisions are stronger, people are more likely to share their ideas and thoughts because they know they will be heard AND understood.

You are invited to join us **January 24-26, 2020**, to explore how we listen, what gets in the way of understanding one another and how reflective listening builds community, strengthens relationships and creates peace. Anyone who has experienced conflict in their lives is invited to join us: Church leaders, parents, young people ages 12+, people with interest in social justice and creating peace in our community are all welcome. This is open to the public, from near and far.

We will begin **Friday, January 24th, 6:30 - 9 PM**, with an exploration of listening and an introduction to the Restorative Circles process. This is an experiential evening to begin cultivating an understanding of how we listen, and what gets in the way of understanding others when we are listening. Open to all those who wish to participate, without obligation to attend the full weekend.

The training continues Saturday, January 25th, 9:30 - 5:00 PM and Sunday, January 26th 12:30 - 5:00 PM. We will experience all aspects of facilitation of the Restorative Circle process through demonstration and practice, and consider how to set up a system of Restorative Circles with a team of facilitators available to the community. Sarah-Elizabeth Anderson, Restorative Circle Facilitator and member of the UU Church of Concord, will lead the weekend, with the assistance of experienced community members.

The suggested sliding scale fee for the weekend is: **\$75 - 150** (sliding scale, based on your ability to pay), **Friday night's introduction is \$15 per person.** A link to the **schedule and to register for the weekend training is here:** <https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/620b2a>

For more information please contact: Sarah-Elizabeth Anderson at **603 365-0852** or sarah_elizabeth@me.com

Yoga/Meditation in Motion | December 2 & 16 | Chapel at 6 pm

Save the dates of December 2nd and December 16th for a relaxing yoga and meditation experience at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. In the midst of this busy season take care of yourself and carve out the time to stop and breathe. Yoga mats are available or bring your own. See you then. -Marjorie Moulton, Facilitator

DECEMBER Special Events

Sun, Dec 1 @ 12:30 pm **Yule Rehearsal**

Thu, Dec 5 @ 10 am **Wreath Making**

Thu, Dec 5 @ 2pm UU Worship @ Havenwood

Fri, Dec 6 @ 10 am **Wreath Making & Fair Set Up**

Fri, Dec 6 @ 6:30 pm **Games and Chocolate**

Sat, Dec 7 @ 9-2 pm **Greens & Artisan Fair**

Sun, Dec 8 @ 11:30-1 pm **Greens & Artisan Fair**

Sun, Dec 8 @ 1 pm Exploring Membership #3

Sun, Dec 8 @ 1:30 pm **Yule Rehearsal**

Sun, Dec 8 @ 7 pm Taizé Service

Sat, Dec 14 @ 10 am **UU Holiday Concert at Granite Ledges**

Sat, Dec 14 @ 10:30 am **UUFOR Holiday Party**

Sun, Dec 15 @ 10 am **New Member Covenanting Ceremony**

Sun, Dec 15 @ 1 pm **Building a Culture of Peace Forum**

Sun, Dec 15 @ 1:30 pm **Yule Rehearsal**

Sun, Dec 15-22 FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

Tue, Dec 17 @ 1:30 pm **Boys & Girls Club Shopping**

Fri, Dec 20 @ 7 pm Winter Solstice/Yule Ritual

Sat, Dec 21 @ 5:50 pm **Caroling for the Homeless**

Sun, Dec 22 @ 11:30 am **Congregational Meeting**

Tue, Dec 24 @ 5 & 9 pm Christmas Eve Services

Tue, Dec 24 @ 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Dinner

Wed & Thu, Dec 25-26 Office Closed Holiday

See our calendar online for up-to-date listing:

www.concorduu.org/calendar

Ongoing Events

Worship Service | Sundays at 10 am

Sunday School for Children

1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays at 11:30 am

“Second Hour” Adult Learning, Service & Practice

2nd & 3rd Sundays at 11:30 am

Community Lunch | 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 12:30 pm

Social Hour Coffee, Cookies & Conversation

1st, 4th, 5th Sundays at 11:15 am

Drop-in Covenant Group | 1st Sundays at 11:45 am

Newcomers Corner | 1st Sundays at 11:15 am

Taize at Concord UU | 2nd Sunday at 7 pm

October thru April

UU Worship at Havenwood | 1st Thursday at 2 pm

Choir Rehearsal | most Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm

Choir Warm-up | most Sundays, 9 am

Noah Project on Sustainability | Sundays at 9 am

Climate Change Group | 4th Sundays at 11:45 am

Youth Group | most Fridays at 7 pm

Games and Chocolate | 1st Fridays at 6:30 pm

Friendly Kitchen prep & serve day | 1st Wed at 3 pm

UU Book Group | Wed, DECEMBER 18 4 pm

Showing Up for Racial Justice | 1st Thurs at 7 pm

Ageing Journey Wisdom Circle

1st Sundays at 11:45 am

Caring for Aging Loved Ones Support Group

4th Sundays at 7 pm

Come As You Are LGBTQ+ AA | Mondays 6-7 pm

Chronic Pain Support Group | 2nd Tues. 1-2:30 pm

Meditation in Motion | 1st, 3rd Mon. at 6 pm

Mindfulness Practice Group | 2nd, 4th Mon. at 7 pm

Plain & Simple Buddhism | Tuesdays at 7 pm

Insight Meditation | 3rd Friday at 4 pm

Board of Trustees | 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 pm



The Transparency Project

Did you know that our church has an ad-hoc Finance Committee? It is composed of our Custodian of Trust Funds, Jack Wakelin; our Senior Minister, Michael Leuchtenberger; our Director of Membership and Administration, Lea Smith; new member and CPA Cathy Menard; and me, your Treasurer, Karen Mayo. The reason we have been coming together is to provide greater transparency around financial transactions in the church, a goal that I made when I first became Treasurer.

We have a number of funds at the church – the two most known are the operating fund, where members vote on a budget at annual meeting every year, and the endowment fund. The endowment fund is where we hold monies from extraordinary events, like the sale of land and the bequest of monies from deceased members. It is used for extraordinary events, like replacing the roof membrane, the sanctuary choir loft project and the removal of problem trees. We also use the fund as an income supplement between what we raise in pledges, and what our operating expenses are in the operating budget, taking a quarterly draw based on the earnings in the endowment fund.

For years, our financial statements that we have shared at annual meetings and budget forums have only included detailed information about the operating fund. FUND ACCOUNTING IS HARD! And it has been easier to account for these different funds separately, and to provide only summary balance and activity information in non-operating funds. But we have decided that we are up for the challenge of getting all financial information in one set of financial statements!

What does this mean? It means that our balance sheet (a report showing all of the things we OWN, the amounts we OWE, and our underlying EQUITY in the organization) will now have the land and buildings, furniture and fixtures, the Schwab Endowment account, and the Fidelity Memorial Garden accounts listed. It means that our Statement of Financial Activities will show all the income and expenses of the organization, including, for example, interest and dividends earned in the endowment, and interest expense on the greener building loan.

These financial statements will look quite different from those you have seen in the past. We are

prepared to hold our usual budget forums before annual meeting, but also forums to learn about these new-looking reports, most likely in mid-winter. And because of this work, we have not reported on last fiscal year's final numbers, until now!

We ended the fiscal year on July 31, 2019 with an operating surplus of \$2,287. We ended 2018-19 with pledge promises on record totaling \$280,501. Of this, \$267,148, or 95% had been fulfilled as of July 31, with slightly late payments in August bringing us to 97.4%, which is a very high rate of fulfillment. The auction netted \$14,000, when we only budgeted about \$8,000.

In most program areas, we finished the year within budget, with three notable exceptions:

The Facilities program was over budget by \$10,780, and was mostly covered by Board-authorized withdrawals from the endowment totaling \$8,380.

The Ministerial program was over budget by \$6,269 due to the minister's spouse being added to the church health insurance, which was not expected when the budget was written.

The Outreach program was over budget by \$5,056, for the renovation of Room 8/9 for Family Promise, and the Vagina Monologues fundraiser for the Crisis Center of Central NH. The overage was offset by designated income for those projects.

As part of this transparency project, we have been looking at how our by-laws, our policies created under Policy-Based Governance, our historical procedures, and any other published documents interact. We have found that there are a number of places where policy is unclear or inconsistent. Therefore, we will be creating a number of warrant articles for membership voting in order to clarify what the congregation wants and expects. Some articles will wait until the annual meeting in the spring, but please read the separate article referencing a special meeting we will be holding in December.

This has been a much bigger project than I originally expected, and I would like to thank both Lea Smith, for hanging in there and being willing to learn and grow in her financial duties, and Cathy Menard, for stepping in to do the work of bringing all the funds into one place.

Gratefully submitted,
Karen Mayo



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Holiday Worship Services

December 20 | 7 pm | “Winter Solstice/Yule Ritual | Earth Centered Spirituality Group

Honor the shortest day and the return of the light. We’ll have music, candles, songs and the famous Stag Dance! The Winter Solstice has been celebrated for millennia by cultures all over the world. Many of our traditions are descended in spirit from the ancient religions of Europe, and honor the divine as manifesting in nature, the turning of the seasons, and the powerfully cyclical nature of life. It is a powerful symbol that the darkest days are behind us (literally) and the new light of a new year is coming.

December 24 | Christmas Eve Services | Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

5 pm | “Christmas Eve Candlelight Service” A service for the whole family full of tradition, music, candle lighting, and a no-rehearsal pageant (all are welcome to participate).

9 pm | “Christmas Eve Candles & Carols” A contemplative service filled with candle light, carols, and choral music. May peace come to our hearts and the world.