

Parish Notes

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord



Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Dear Congregational Leaders,

Who knew three months ago how expert many of us would become with Zoom? Who could have imagined how beautiful worship could be even when we experience it remotely? Since my own congregation records a beautiful service that I can view on Saturday, I have had a chance to attend services at quite a few congregations over the past three months. No matter “where” I attend church on a Sunday, I experience a deep connection with our UU faith and the love that calls us into service. I hope you have experienced moments of grace during this time of COVID-19.

NNED was unable to hold our annual meeting in April due to COVID 19 and we rescheduled the Annual Meeting and Assembly for September 25-26 believing at the time of our decisions that it would be safe to gather in September. Ah, how little we knew at that time.

Recognizing that holding an in-person meeting in September is impractical, if not impossible, while maintaining the physical distancing required to keep everyone healthy, the NNED Board has decided to move forward with a virtual annual meeting and assembly on September 26, 2020. Our time together will still include many of the elements you look forward to - music and worship along with our business meeting. If our experience with a virtual annual meeting aligns with the experience of other regional assemblies and our own General Assembly, we may find higher participation at this meeting since the costs of registration, housing and travel are eliminated. You will need to register to attend.

Some may wonder if holding a meeting virtually constitutes a legally valid meeting and whether there is a provision for virtual meetings within our By-Laws? The Board asked our counsel for their opinion on this matter and received the following response, “Bylaws are silent about virtual meetings, but given the present environment, it is prudent and responsible for the meeting to be virtual.” The Board concurs.

We want to share two documents with you now: the [“Resolution of Dissolution”](#)* and the [“Plan of Complete Liquidation and Dissolution”](#)*. We have also created an [FAQ](#)* to help you understand these documents. The board will offer optional Zoom calls for delegates in late August/early September to review the business meeting agenda and proposed motions prior to the annual meeting. Stay tuned for dates and times of these Zoom meetings.

In closing, I am sharing with you a thoughtful and pastoral message written by Board Member Rev. Margaret Beckman articulating the journey toward dissolution. It resonates so strongly with the entire Board that we wanted to share it with you. (*The pastoral message can be found on page 8*)

With love for our faith and for each of you,

Mary Heafy, President

*Mailed PN versions if you would like a printed copy please let Heidi know & she'll get you them.

August 2020
Summer Time Issue

August Worship Services

Live stream our worship services at concorduu.org/live

Online services stream at 10 am each Sunday followed by interactive Zoom Room offerings. Each week's service theme will be published in our weekly eBulletin.

Upcoming Worship Leaders

August 2Lyn Marshall

August 9Linda Williams

August 16Kay Read & Whitney Howarth

August 23Earth Centered Spirituality Group

August 30Rachel Burlock

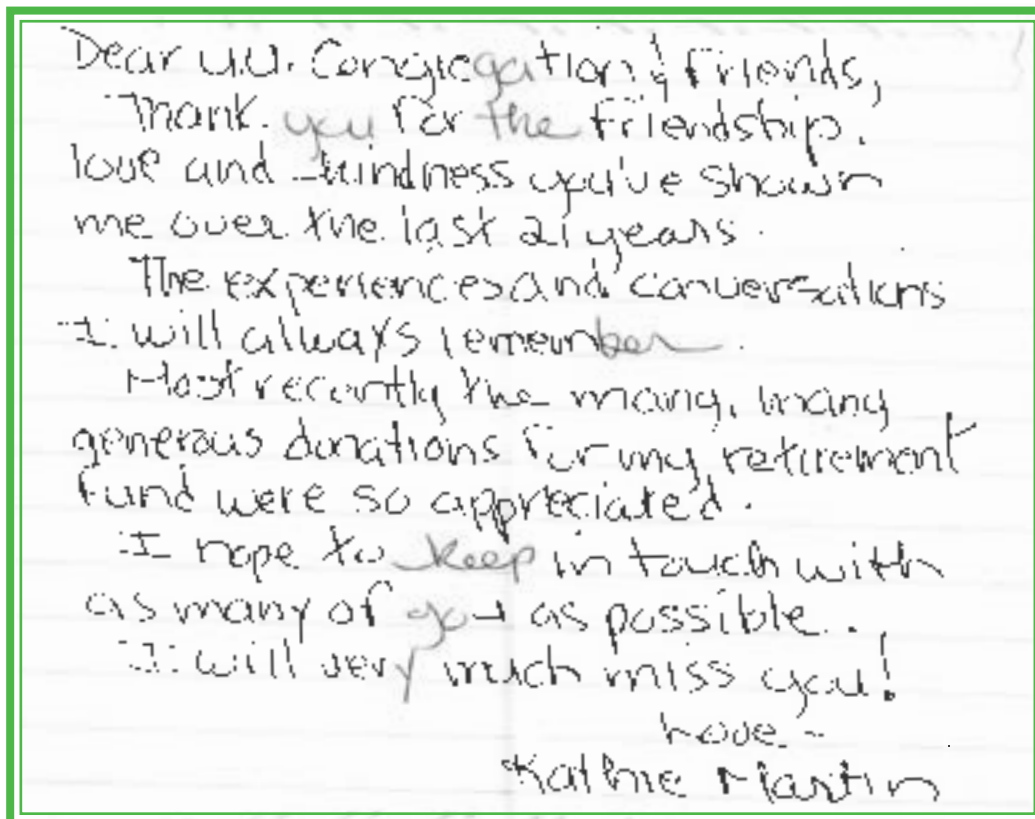
September 6Rev Denise Tracy



Summer Second Hour

Join Rev. Lyn Marshall and our summer worship leader for conversation and connection after the service.

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/120926709> or phone in at 646 876 9923 with Meeting ID: 120 926 709



NEW! Centering Saturday

Mini-retreats led by meditation instructors via Zoom

Centering Saturday | August 29, 2020 | 8-10 am

Come start your Saturday morning off with a mini-retreat led by meditation instructors Jeanne Ann Whittington & Janet Kelley-Vail. Details to follow. [Register here.](#)

Centering Saturday | September 26, 2020 | 8-10 am

Led by Jeanne Ann Whittington | Details to follow. [Register here.](#)

Mindfulness Practice Group | Private Zoom

Meets the Second & Fourth Mondays | 6 – 7:30 PM

If interested in joining them please email Craig Whitson craig.listening@gmail.com

We are a self-led group of practitioners of mindfulness meditation. We offer an inspiring range of mindfulness activities with some group members voluntarily rotating as facilitators. Everyone is welcome to join us, beginners and experienced meditators alike! Please contact Craig with any questions.

This is our group intention: “Grounded in Mindfulness Practices taught in the course Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, we come together in community with the intention to cultivate open-heartedness in a safe, trusting environment and to be friends with and IN the present moment. We encourage you to mindfully experience the wide variety of practices that our member facilitators share.”

Insight Meditation Sangha | Zoom

Meets the Third Friday, Zoom link found on calendar, eBulletin | 4 – 6 PM

Rae Houseman, from 10% Happier and the Vermont Insight Meditation Center in Brattleboro, VT, provides Buddhist teaching and guidance in the insight meditation/ Vipassana tradition. See the [VIMS website](https://valleyinsight.org/) for more detail about this tradition. <https://valleyinsight.org/>

The sangha includes guidance that leads into meditation, a meditation period, and then a discussion that is generally a reflection on the sitting practice. The group is appropriate for beginning and experienced meditators alike. The Insight Sangha is now officially affiliated with the UU Church. Everyone is welcome! Contact Doris with questions at dandmhamp38@gmail.com

12 minute meditation | Embracing Life with an Open Heart, by Tara Brach

Submitted by Kim Gillis <https://www.tarabrach.com/meditation-embracing-life/>



Portsmouth Pocket Garden Tour

Portsmouth, New Hampshire provides peeks at its Victorian past interspersed with homes of all 20th century vintage with this year's South Church Pocket Garden Tour. This year the majesty of late summer will take center stage with the tour rescheduled to Sept. 11 and 12.

Pocket Garden Tour Committee co-chair Sue Peterson anticipates a celebratory tour. "We hope it will be a gift for the Seacoast community after these stressful months, when we can all join together with friends and family to celebrate this glorious time in Portsmouth."

Visitors this fall will also be treated to a new feature: a series of horticultural talks will take place on topics like composting, putting gardens to bed for the winter and dividing perennials.

"We're excited for tour-goers not only to admire the beautiful gardens along the route, but also bring home ideas and tips to start a garden or bring their garden to the next level," said PGT Committee co-chair Lauren Katz.

THE PARTICULARS

When: Sept. 11 and 12, 2020, rain or shine

Time: Friday, Sept. 11, from 4-7 PM; Saturday, Sept. 12, 9 AM - 3 PM

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 the weekend of the tour.

Facebook: Portsmouth Pocket Garden Tour

South Church website: <http://www.southchurch-uu.org/what-we-offer/pocket-garden-tour/>

Painting by Denise F. Brown. Permission granted to reproduce.

“Twist and Shout...”

“And work it all out” or something like that. If you hear shouting or singing coming from the area with our compost bins, another composter has successfully secured the cover after making a deposit. It is not hard; if the Beatles song will help, sing it. It seems like the raccoons in the vicinity of the church have figured it out, as covers have been discovered removed and our compost area messed up. Most likely a dragged-out dinner in a peaceful spot.



To all composters leaving their goods, we need to make sure we align arrows and turn the covers to lock down after we dump in compost. Here are the directions on the cover of our Earth Machine composter that the raccoons are (maybe?) reading: **“No Meat, No Fat, No Bones”...**

“LOCKED → ” (Turn counterclockwise) see photo below

“OPEN” (Turn clockwise to line up arrows.)

As of mid-July, both bins were less than half full; please feel free to bring your kitchen waste over to church. We need your input, but please make sure your input doesn't contain meat, fat, or bones, and as long as the cover is also locked when you leave, we should be good! Twist and Shout, Come on Baby, Now Work it on Out!

And Thank You for your contributions,
A singing, shouting, happy Belinda (Nerl)
Email me questions-bjnerl@comcast.net





FRIENDLY KITCHEN DILEMMA

As most of you know, we have been providing a meal at the Friendly Kitchen on the **first Wednesday of the month** for almost 50 years. At this time, however, the team of cooks (at ages that are the most vulnerable) has withdrawn from working at the Kitchen due to the pandemic. For the last three months we purchased food from two of our UU small-business owners for between \$500 and \$750 a month. This was paid for by the cooks and then from a very generous Community Plate. However, being so expensive, we have to find another solution to keep supporting our guests.

One thing that other churches are doing is to have ‘younger’ members and friends step up and help. That would mean **being at the Kitchen at 3 pm** to start prepping and cooking and putting the food into take-out containers for kitchen staff to pass out. Clean-up would only be cooking pans and utensils, so my guess is that you would be **finished by 5:30**.

This is a huge ask, I know, and I would welcome any other ideas that might work. Please contact me if you can help and thank you for any support you can give.

Fran Philippe

Friendly Kitchen Coordinator | 369-2844 | franphilippe38@gmail.com

Grounds update submitted by Fran Philippe

Both stone walls have been repaired and sealed by Steve LeClerc. Olkonen Earthscapes has edged, weeded, fertilized and mulched the shrub bed and trimmed the shrubs surrounding the solar panels.

2020 Thanksgiving Dinner Coordinator Chairs Needed*

2020 Thanksgiving Dinner will need coordinators for the dinner. It is recommended that there be two people who co-chair who can work together and share the responsibilities. Extensive to-do list with timeline available as guideline. The Chairs will make the dinner happen: from printing up and selling the tickets and preparing copy for the eBulletin and Parish Notes publicity and some pulpit announcements; to shopping for and preparing the appetizers to serve at the social hour, recruiting side dishes and desserts for the potluck dinner; and recruiting help for set up through to final clean up. The Chairs oversee all preparations and must be vigilant to needs throughout the evening. The Chairs will have much influence as to the evening's celebrations. Unbelievably, this is NOT a labor intensive service, and it is a lot of fun!

Please contact Paula van de Werken for more information paulacvdw@gmail.com

***Covid side note:**
We really don't know what our Thanksgiving dinner will look like this year. We are looking for creative, flexible people to reimagine this event as we move through these uncertain times.



THANK YOU!!

Thank you to our many building and grounds elves, who carry on their maintenance of our beautiful church home despite the COVID closure. Special thanks to:

- Fran Philippe, who has taken over a Grounds Chair. She arranged for a landscaper to care for the ailing front shrubs, and for repairs to the stone walls.
- Bob Lyon, for mowing the lawn since we are without a custodian.
- Ruth Axelrod, for her previous leadership of the Grounds, and for her meticulous records
- Trudy Mott-Smith, for arranging for electrical projects and parking lot repairs.
- Loren Hill, for helping to get new doors installed on the “garage.”
- Jim Downie, for ongoing attention to our irrigation.
- All our Adopt-a-Spot volunteers for maintaining our lovely gardens!

Holding On. Letting Go. Reaching Out.

by Reverend Margaret Beckman

In the discussions we've been having during the last few years about the best possible future for Unitarian Universalist congregations in Northern New England, we have shared our thoughts and emotions; we have been present to each other's hope and optimism as well as to our grief and misgiving; we have argued and persuaded, we have researched and reimagined; and finally, we have come together in this moment to bring these vital conversations to a close and to take action.

The recommendation of the NNED Board to dissolve the Northern New England District comes after all those conversations. We have listened. We have explored options. With the organization of the UUA Congregational Life staff deployed to all congregations, primarily but not exclusively, through regions, our financial support of our staff naturally follows that new structure. This structure is more efficient and more nimble than our previous structure of 19 separate districts. Our NNED finances will not be lost. They will be stewarded as a part of a larger and more comprehensive whole. Our resources, as they become part of the UUA resources, will benefit congregations in Northern New England all the time. And since we are an association of congregations across North America, we can be assured that when tragedy or extraordinary needs arise in one place, our resources can help restore, rebuild or replace what is lost by our sibling congregations. They will do the same for us should the need arise. When there is a fire in California – we reach out. When there is a flood in New Orleans – we reach out. When there is an ice storm in New England – we reach out. When tornados strike the Midwest, we reach out. When a congregation stretches to achieve a dream just outside their grasp, we reach out.

Dissolving the NNED is only one element of our larger challenge - to conceive and create the best possible future for UU congregations in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. That process will go on well after the delegates to the 2020 NNED Annual Meeting have voted on the Resolution of Dissolution, and it is that process that will demonstrate our commitment to ourselves, each other, and faith. We are an association of congregations. We are one association, one whole. We are not many associations tied together through Districts or Regions. Districts and Regions are conveniences; they are structures that help us manage our resources and share our faith. And yet, we become attached to these structures for the very reason that they have worked, imperfectly to be sure, but effectively in most instances. These structures were created in the 20th Century to facilitate our association as it was then. As we move into the 21st Century, new structures are needed that will support us in our world now.

There is comfort in holding on to what we know and what has worked in the past. Letting go of that comfort and familiarity is hard. At the same time, we know that as long as our hands are holding on to what we have now, we cannot accept what is coming forth. So, letting go is important, and because it is also hard, we will let go together. When we loosen our grip on our past success, we can open our hands and we can reach out for our future success. We can honestly and fully grieve what we leave behind, but we ought not to let our grief cloud our vision of what lies in front of us. Our pooled faith, strength, resources, and commitment are what keep our association of congregations both stronger together and independent in each congregation's operations. Reaching out is the way we bring our future closer and the way we grasp our own part in shaping and molding that future.

NEITHER SNOW NOR RAIN NOR HEAT NOR COVID....



The Building Maintenance Committee has been busy working with volunteers and contractors while the congregation has been away from the building. Bragging a bit ...

Just before the buildings closure Chris Graham installed a wider door in the East restroom, completing the restroom's accessibility and convenience for people with disabilities. He also replaced the hand rail at the sidewalk ramp.

Loren Hill took on a myriad of tasks both large and small. He swept the sand and debris from the parking lot and driveway, preparatory to cracks being filled by Bow Paving on a Saturday during this summer or fall. He installed a new lock set in one of the restrooms, a new door closer for the office door and additional directional driveway signs. Currently, Loren is busy replacing the dry wells destroyed during the relocation of the posts along the West side of Fellowship Hall.

Fran Philippe gave the Committee a hand by priming and painting one of the four sets of railings needing a new coat of paint.

With Loren's help, Bob Williams replaced the ballast in the hall light outside the office.

Overhead Door Company of Concord replaced the old door to the garage with a new roll-up overhead door.



Giguere Electric moved wires in Fellowship Hall preparatory to interior bracing planned for late this year. Giguere also made the following improvements: replacing light switches with sensors in some of the restrooms; installing dimmers and a replacement outlet in the parlor; installing new exterior lighting at the path to the chapel entrance, the Emerson School emergency exit door at the back of the building, the main sanctuary door and the Fellowship Hall door; repairing outlets in the storage room and on the pole in the driveway.



Board of Trustees June Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Zoe Picard

This month the Board:

- Welcomed new members to the Board of Trustees: Tom O'Brien and Jim Schlosser
- Elected a new slate of officers with Ann Hoey as Chair and Kelly Mahoney as Vice Chair
- Discussed the virtual General Assembly (originally planned for Providence, RI)
- Discussed Kathie Martin's upcoming retirement

Endowment Update

by Rob Fleischman, Endowment Committee Chair

The Church Endowment committee unanimously approved the addition of the following to our Investment Policy statement:

"The Domestic and International Equity allocations will be comprised of sustainable investment funds which incorporate environmental, social & governance factors into the portfolio."

Years ago, our endowment began a transition to investing in funds that closely align with our church values. However, the choices were limited and the selections were not compelling. Over the years, that has changed. We are now aligning ALL of our equity investments with church values. The thesis of investing for good societal impact and good returns is compelling.

We are confident that this is not only the right thing to do, but, that it will not compromise endowment performance. In fact, it may increase our performance.

Some of our existing and new funds include: Green Century Equity Fund (GCEUX), Global Environmental Markets Fund (PGINX), Ellevest Global Women's Leadership Fund (PWXIX), MSCI EAFE ESG Leaders Fund (PXNIX) and others.

Feel free to reach out to the committee for additional questions or details.



Transforming Our World

Concord UU Connects Facebook Group

This group is open to all active members and friends of the church. We'd love to have you join us in all the fun!

If you're on Facebook and would like a way to connect with church friends informally, please search for Concord UU Connects and ask to join. Unlike the church Facebook page which is available to the public, this group is just for members and friends. We've been sharing photographs of pets, selfies, artwork, and baby pictures.

[Click here](#) to find us and request to join.



**Concord UU Kids Connect!
Postponed through Summer**



**Pandemic Parenting Check-In
Postponed through Summer**



Racial Justice books available for remote checkout

"Every person has value as a member of the human family. The suffering caused by racism must be ended if we want to create fair and loving communities. We work to end racial discrimination and injustice, starting within ourselves and moving out into the world around us."

-- from the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association

What does it mean to start within ourselves? It means learning how systemic racism influences us, and un-learning the habits it has created in us as individuals. It also means looking at how white supremacy insidiously affects our UU congregations. After three years of research, the Commission on Institutional Change of the UUA issued a report to help UU congregations dismantle systems of white supremacy. The report is entitled *Widening the Circle of Concern*, and is available for checkout from the church library.

Also available on the theme of racial justice:

- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Diangelo (2018)
- *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi (2016)
- *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race* edited by Jesmyn Ward (2016)
- *From #blacklivesmatter to Black Liberation* by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (2016)
- *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving (2014)
- *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Right Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism* by Mark D. Morrison-Reed (2014)
- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander (2010)
- *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice* by Paul Kivel (1996)
- *Racial Healing: Confronting the Fear Between Blacks and Whites* by Harlon L Dalton (1995)
- *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* by Mark D. Morrison-Reed (1980)
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin (1962)

Email Lea Smith at lea@concorduu.org with your book selection, and she will leave it in a box outside of the back door to Fellowship Hall for you to pick up at your convenience.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Be sure to stay connected through Breeze to easily email or call members & friends to wish them a happy birthday. Wondering why your birthday isn't listed? We might not have it in Breeze. Great time to update information and add a picture.

JULY BELATED

- July 04.....Robert Gabrielli
- July 06.....Christoper Soule
- July 07Rebeckah Webb
- July 08.....Lea Smith
- July 15.....Camila Devlin
- July 17.....Jeffrey Fetter
- July 17.....Monica Logan
- July 21.....Sue Hale deSéve
- July 22Maria Soule
- July 24Peter Bartlett
- July 26Binita Rai

AUGUST

- Aug 08Laura Messenger
- Aug 08Wendy Olson
- Aug 16Ty Meier
- Aug 17.....Anne Stoops
- Aug 21.....Phill Hunt
- Aug 26Jim Schlosser
- Aug 27Belinda Nerl
- Aug 29Robert Williams
- Aug 30.....Rik Yeames



AUGUST Special Events & Ongoing Events

Please see our calendar online for the most up-to-date listing of events happening through Zoom:
www.concorduu.org/calendar

Remember to keep your eBulletin for private Zoom links

[Click](#) to register and receive the Zoom link to join us. You can also register at concorduu.org/calendar



Centering Saturday
August 29 | 8-10 am | Free | **Registration**
Led by Jeanne Ann Whittington & Janet Kelley-Vail

Games & Chocolates | August 7 | Zoom



Lammas Ritual | August 8 | Zoom



COVID Update

To answer a frequently asked question: No, we have not set a date for "re-opening" the church. In fact, the question is not exactly when to open, but rather when and how to start making steps towards a hybrid model with some online and some in-person activities. The UUA recommends that churches assume COVID will affect us at least through May 2021. Like most churches, we have a higher percentage of older adults than the wider population, so our COVID plans need to be more cautious as well. The staff, Board and Operations Leadership Team have all had discussions around how to move forward and we will start working on next steps towards the end of August.

Our goal will be to creatively reimagine many of our events. Just a few thoughts to ponder: Could we have some smaller events in larger spaces (like a Covenant Group in the Sanctuary) and keep larger events online? Could we set up a room with the right technology to allow events with some in-person attendees while others participate from home? What would a safer Church Picnic or Community Luncheon look like?

In the August Parish Notes, we usually publish a church year calendar for our big events. While the dates for many of our usual events have indeed been set, we don't know enough about which will really happen, and in what format, to publish anything yet. The tentative dates can be seen at www.concorduu.org/calendar and are prefaced with a "T" for Tentative.



Office Hours by Appointment

Although the church building is still closed, starting on Aug 1, the church office will be open **Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment**. We will be wearing our masks when you arrive, and we ask you to do the same. Please contact Lea (lea@concorduu.org or 603-224-0291 ext 4#) or Heidi (heidi@concorduu.org or 603-224-0291 ext 2#) for an appointment. Heidi and Lea are also available by phone and email on other days so please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help you in any way.

We miss you and we wish we could welcome drop-ins, but we currently do not have custodial services so proper disinfection is an area of concern in light of COVID-19.

Parish Notes Deadline Schedule:

ISSUE	DUE
Sept.	Wed. Aug. 19

Please email articles and images by end of day to ParishNotes@ConcordUU.org

Staff

Senior Minister | Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger
715-7557 (cell), michael@concorduu.org

Minister of Lifespan Faith Development
Rev. Lyn Marshall
224-0291 x3(office) 568-8084 (cell),
lyn@concorduu.org

Accompanist | Calvin Herst
calvin@concorduu.org

Dir. of Membership & Administration | Lea Smith
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Office Administrator | Heidi Page
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Officers

Treasurer | Karen Mayo

Custodian of Trust Funds | Jack Wakelin

Assistant Treasurer | Lorraine Ellis

Moderator | Barbara Keshen

Clerk | Sara McNeil

Board of Trustees

Chair | Ann Hoey

Vice-Chair | Kelly Mahony

Secretary | Zoe Picard

Anne Drewniak

Jim Schlosser

Tom O'Brien

eBulletin

Information for the upcoming week's events, happenings, and announcements are due at 6 pm on Wednesdays of each week.

Please email short articles and images to ebulletin@ConcordUU.org

Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you were a bubble where would you go & what would you see?

