

# Parish Notes

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

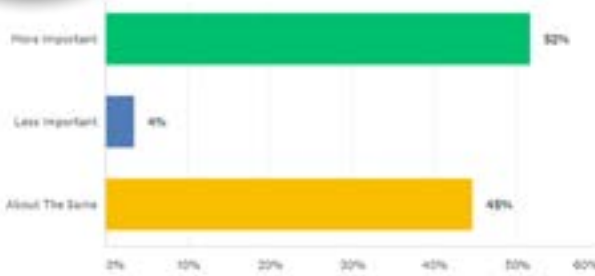


## Minister's Musings

"Excel" used to be my second language. Spreadsheets are what I used all day long to create models translating environmental, health, and economic data into information that could be used by decision makers in DC. Which might explain why I am so tickled to see the responses of our Ends Survey come in and why I will share a few preliminary results even before the dead-

line has passed. Total responses so far: 115. Keep them coming. More data points make me happy. :-)

Did you know that there are more introverts among us than extroverts? (47% versus 21% with 32% about equal) This matters in how we think about our offerings. It was one of the reasons we came up with 2nd Hour as an alternative to Social Hour - twice a month.



More than half of you indicated that feeling connected to a faith community has become more important during the pandemic and for 45% it's about the same. Not a total surprise, yet it helps justify the additional effort and creativity we have collectively put into keeping our faith community vibrant and relevant. 81% have participated in worship. Our community plate has received donations from 46% of respondents, 2nd Hour Zoom Rooms have had 42% of you participate, Caring Circles 52%, Covenant Groups 33% and 26% are part of our Concord UU Connects Facebook group.

From the beginning we emphasized the slogan: Physically distant, yet socially connected. How is that working out? Based on your feedback, a surprising 17.4 percent indicated that your sense of connection with the congregation has actually grown as a result of church activities going online. For most it has remained the same (58.3%) and, unfortunately, for 23.5%, the sense of connection has declined.



We don't know when we will once again be able to worship, celebrate, grieve, eat, and sing all together in person. We hope for the best yet recognize that large group gatherings may not be sensible for another year. And we will explore hybrid models as soon as that is feasible knowing how eager most of us are to meet in person while acknowledging the need to offer safe options for all to participate.

*With love and affection, and feeling tremendously grateful for the 10 years of ministry we now have shared together!*

Michael

June/July 2020  
Summer Time Issue

## June/July Worship Services

Live stream our worship services at [concorduu.org/live](https://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.



### SECOND HOUR

| LEARNING

| SERVICE

| PRACTICE

### STAY CONNECTED

Weekly offerings will be listed with Zoom links in the eBulletin, on the Live Stream page each Sunday, and on the church calendar.

### Call for Summer Service Proposals!

Rev. Lyn Marshall will be helping us continue our tradition of lay led summer services by offering staff support to help move it to an online format for as long as necessary. If you have an idea for a summer service you would like to lead, if you have musical gifts you would like to share, or if you'd like to be involved in some way but aren't quite sure what it would be, please get in touch with Lyn at [lyn@concorduu.org](mailto:lyn@concorduu.org).

### Electronic Giving for Health & Safety

Electronic donations will be the church's lifeblood while we all are staying home to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Set up your pledge for automatic payment at <https://concorduu.org/get-involved/donate/> or by logging into your Breeze account.

By the way, if you don't have a Breeze account, please email [breeze@concorduu.org](mailto:breeze@concorduu.org) to get one. It allows you to look up our Members and Friends so you can stay in touch from a distance.

If you are mailing checks, please be patient as we will not be processing them as quickly as usual.

## Creating a Listening Community: Transforming the World

Sarah-Elizabeth Anderson led a Restorative Circles Facilitator training which began just before the church closed in March. Restorative Circles (RC) is a conflict resolution process, practiced since 2008 in our community, based on Non-Violent Communication and the work of Dominic Barter in the barrios of Brazil. The RC training continued via Zoom, with about 10 participants from the greater Concord area, including our own Whitney Howarth. It was a first time for Sarah-Elizabeth leading this training via Zoom.

The experience was a success! There is a group of 6 people who continue to meet to share their experiences and practice together once a month over lunch. Our first meeting found one woman sharing that during a work meeting, she took a moment to pause and reflect on the meaning of a man in the conversation. This helps everyone get clear on his point of view and defused the tension being created by his comments. Her boss was impressed with what she had witnessed.

Since then, Sarah-Elizabeth has begun offering Restorative Circles trainings around the globe to the Extinction Rebellion community. One such class, starting **June 4th (from 9-11:30 AM EST)** and lasting a period of six-weeks, will include attendees from across Europe, Africa, and Oceania. There are two Introductory possibilities: **June 8th 8:00 - 10:30 PM EST** (this reaches into Oceania, Australia and New Zealand) and **June 10th 9 AM - 11:30 AM EST** (this reaches the Europe, India and Africa time zones). If you are interested in joining, please contact Sarah-Elizabeth Anderson via email at: [sarah\\_elizabeth@me.com](mailto:sarah_elizabeth@me.com)

# SECLUSION

## Can We, United, Do What We Thought "Government" Would Do?

Pick up what's failed – or  
leave rubble and build anew.  
Listen to our young. 4/11/2020



## Cuppa Josephine

Flap packet, then rip  
so tea bag won't tear. Let cat  
sniff. Heat water. Ahhh...3/29/2020

## Abandoned Playground

View from my kitchen:  
purple dinosaur, benches  
and forsythia. 4/5/2020



## I Opened the Window Yesterday, and...

Cat, not listless, leaps  
on sill, breathes sunlight, fresh air,  
pheromones, whatnot! 3/21/2020



## Mobile Solarium

Cat, houseplants and I  
migrate with warm, bright band of  
floor-creeping sunlight. 3/22/2020



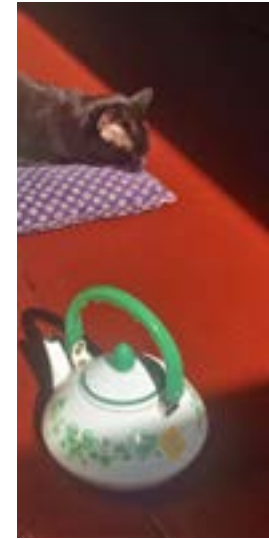
## No One Loves Sun Like a Cat

Eyes shut, tail wrapped, in  
sunny trapezoid, sits tall,  
like an Egyptian. 4/12/2020



## Floor Warmth

No sun-pools for cat.  
Heating pad? She understands,  
crosses room, nestles. 3/29/2020



## Savasana on an Overcast Day

Knuckles on cold floor,  
mat at my back. Above me,  
skylight frames "nothing." 4/8/2020

## Sun! Home-Cooked Food with Fresh Ingredients!

1. OMG, takeout,  
warm and generous, eaten  
on roof patio. 4/8/2020

2. Lying on floor, sun  
-kissed, then making French toast with  
eggs, bread I just bought. 4/11/2020



## Heeding Intuition

Change of plans: skip walk,  
skip hardware errand. Just a  
gut-level message. 4/21/2020



## The Day I Drew "The Sun," Reversed

Dark. Kitty's fed, yet  
she cries. Cranky with headache.  
Torrents splash outside. 4/9/2020

## Technology-Induced Desperation

Self-paced online class –  
I want to tear my hair out!  
Maybe shave my head? 4/5/2020



## Just as Busy as Before Corona

Looked up long-lost friends.  
Zoom overwhelm! Pandora's  
box, in a good way. 3/25/2020



Excerpts from an ongoing haiku photojournal

--Carlotta Hayes

Transforming Our World



## Coronavirus and Our Building

by Lea Smith

After deep thinking about the health of our congregation, the people we serve, and our wider community, we decided that our building will remain closed until at least August. Rev. Lyn Marshall will work closely with lay leaders to continue our livestreamed worship services through the summer. Only a few key staff and volunteers will be in the building, plus the staff of our lessees, Emerson School and Local Harvest CSA (the CSA is doing curbside pickup from our front circle on Wednesdays.)

It's too soon to say what will happen in the fall and beyond. Our decision-making process will be guided by healthcare experts, governmental agencies, and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Since our congregation has a higher proportion of seniors than the wider population, our return to "business as usual" may take longer than some other establishments. A "hybrid church" with large events online plus some small in-person events might be one path forward. Our goal is to keep the UU spirit thriving in new ways that keep people safer. This is the faithful response to the people we love and serve.

The building may be closed but the church is not! Your staff and lay leaders are still here for you, transforming worship, small groups, pastoral care, and physical support in the time of coronavirus. The church is not its building. The church is YOU...shopping for one another, sending cards and making phone calls, having meaningful conversations by Zoom to reduce isolation, raising money to buy meals for the Friendly Kitchen or groceries for folks who are laid off, and more. Even so, we are all joined in grief as we miss worshipping together in our inspiring sanctuary, sitting quietly in our peaceful chapel, or laughing over coffee in the parlor.

Please reach out to any of our Pastoral Care Associates if you are in need of a listening ear, and you should call your Caring Circle Lead if you are not able to go into public spaces and need someone to shop for groceries or to run other errands. If participating in our online programs is hard for you because you lack equipment, technical skills, or financial resources, please be in touch with Lea Smith, [lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org) or by calling 224-0291 ext 4#. We'd like to help you get connected.

On May 14, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the UUA, shared this message with our congregations:

"Based on advice from experts, we continue to recommend that congregations not gather in person. We also recommend that congregations begin planning for virtual operations for the next year (through May 2021).

*Take a moment to breathe. I know this is significant.*

While there is much public conversation about "reopening," the reality is public health officials consistently predict a long trajectory for this pandemic. A majority of our congregational members, leaders, and staff members are in high-risk categories. Our care for the well-being and safety of our members and staff must be a priority in this pandemic.

Additionally, religious gatherings are considered highly contagious events. The acts of singing, the familiarity of people across households, the multigenerational community of children, youth, adults and seniors—the things that make our congregations so special—also create more risk for spreading the virus.

Given that so much uncertainty and risk remain, anticipating a year of virtual operations allows for more creative long-term planning, while still being flexible if conditions change significantly. We recognize that with time, and depending on the specific conditions and recommendations of local public health officials, small in-person groups of people and limited staff activities onsite may become possible while wearing masks, observing social distancing guidelines, and following diligent cleaning practices."

For the full text of Rev. Frederick-Gray's message, go to <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/message-uua-president-updated-guidance-gathering>

## community NOW

Community NOW fostering real connections in a virtual world. Check out these upcoming online events hosted by UU communities everywhere and open to anyone, anywhere!

Visit [CommunityNOW](#) and click the "Subscribe" button to synchronize events to your personal calendar

*All times listed are Eastern/US. Here is just a small sampling of things you will find.*

- Monday Meditation with Boise UU
- UU Women's Online Minerva Potlucks
- Drop-in Covenant Group
- Welcome Wednesdays
- Midweek Vespers Service
- A Weekly UU Talk Show
- UU Open Circle of Knitters, Crafters, and Chatterboxes
- Film Screening & Discussions
- Friday Night Soulful Sundown

*New events are being added daily! You can even visit some UU church services in other states.*

**RED ROVER, RED ROVER, SEND IT ON OVER**

We would love to publish some uplifting stories that you have witnessed, poems, and art that you are making during this time of reflection and creativity. Please share writings & high resolution images to [ParishNotes@ConcordUU.org](mailto:ParishNotes@ConcordUU.org)

**Dues to the UUA**

Each year our church pays “dues” to help support the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. The UUA offers us immense resources including expertise in everything from theology and curriculum, to stewardship and personnel issues. While there is no requirement for how much we have to pay, they do suggest a fair amount customized for our congregation.

Our bylaws state, “It is the intention of this Church to make annual financial contributions to both the Association and the District equal to the full fair shares as determined by the Association and the District.” We have not paid our full fair share for many years, although we are gradually increasing towards it.

Per the UUA’s website, “The New Annual Program Fund (APF) request amount is no longer based on your congregation’s membership number. Instead it is based on your ability to pay, so it is linked to the congregation’s Certified Operating Expenditures. (This means as your income goes up, so does your requested amount. As your income decreases and your expenditures decrease, so does your requested amount.) In addition to the APF, this request includes your congregation’s contribution to your district or region. It is a unified ask, covering BOTH APF and your Region.”

For more info about how the APF request is calculated go to: <https://www.uua.org/finance/apf/southern-central-newengland/formula>

**New Stuff Added to Our YouTube Channel**  
We have testimonies, poetry, choir moments, worship services, and hopefully lots more to add soon. Please visit and subscribe to our channel. Also, share some of your favorite moments by sending links via email or on your Facebook page to friends and family. We hope to keep adding to it for posterity and so others can see what a wonderful supportive community we have here. [Click here](#) to visit. Thank you.

# 2020 Auction and TALENT SHOW

## *Viral Edition*

**FEATURING: You , You, and You**

*Bring your talents to the forefront!*

*LIVE & Prerecorded performances welcomed.*

**Donations | Items | Services | Events\***

**WHEN: Sunday, June 14 at 11 a.m.**

### **DETAILS:**

Fill out a form for each donation and performance. Then start practicing!

**[Auction Donation Form](#) | Due 6/7**

**[Talent Show Performance Form](#) | Due 6/7**

*\*In planning your gathering or service offering please use your best judgment keeping possible COVID-19 developments in mind.*

*New or like new donated items worth at least \$25 value welcomed.*



# Transforming Ourselves

## Summertime, and the living is...

by Rev. Lyn Marshall

### Summertime, and the living is...

As we head into high summer and the beautiful days of June and July, I know many of us are grieving losses, whether or not we have been impacted directly by COVID-19. Shall we gather at the river? Probably not. Maybe. Can we, with masks on and staying six feet apart? Shall we splash in the pool? Well, not the public pools, not this summer. Do we get to go spend a week with the cousins? Can I take that trip? Even if we can, should we?

If ever there was a summer for practicing the spiritual art of letting go, of leaning in to what is, and staying closely connected to our most important values, this is it. Some of us are suffering already, and some of us are quite well protected. Some of us are facing financial hardship, and some of us are still collecting the same paychecks. Some of us are itching to get back into the physical spaces we shared without a thought in 2019, and some of us still feel, and are, much safer staying home.

Connection will matter more than ever as it becomes less clear what is safe to do together, and what is not. Communication will matter more than ever as we disagree over why, how, and when we reopen this, and reopen that. I'm grateful for what I do know: that our church has been a hub of connection during the past few months. We will continue to gather every Sunday to fill our spirits with beautiful music, to connect to our shared values through ritual, and to remember what is holy and good as we worship together online. I'm excited to help support our lay worship leaders as they bring their unique perspectives, voices, and stories to our summer services.

Many things will be different this summer, and some of them will surely be hard. And to put a new spin on a reading I love by my colleague Rev. Wayne Arnason: not so deep down, there is another truth: you are not alone. "See" you in church!



# 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

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## Board of Trustees May Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Zoe Picard

### This month the Board:

- Planned for virtual Annual Meeting, which included reviewing the Budget and approving a slate of Board of Trustees nominees.
- Acknowledging input from multiple congregants, the Board of Trustees awarded Michael a bonus for exemplary service during this extremely challenging public health crisis. He has effectively utilized our highly competent team to keep us spiritually challenged, comforted and connected.

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## Community Plates Nearly Double!

by Deb Bruss, Community Plate Committee Chair

Since March 15th, when our Sunday services began streaming, community plate collections have also gone online. By the end of March, our congregation's donations took a GIANT leap!

Between September 8th until mid-March we literally passed the plates on Sundays, and collections averaged \$581\*. Between March 15th and May 17th, the average total jumped to \$1059\*. Wow!

When our congregants recognized that the crisis was at our doorstep, those of us who were able, became more generous.

The ease of using a credit card has probably helped to increase donations. Whatever the reason, please keep up your generous gifts and help support the people and causes that are struggling during these trying times.

*\*These figures do not include matching funds so generously donated by a few members.*



## JUNE BIRTHDAY WISHES

Be sure to stay connected through Breeze to easily email or call members & friends to wish them a happy birthday.

June 01 .....Calvin Herst

June 16 .....Pedro Sandin

June 02.....Jeff Beland

June 17 .....Whitney Howarth

June 02.....Gerhardt Schroeder

June 19 .....Charles Wilbert

June 04 .....Rebecca Nann

June 20.....Holly Green

June 07.....Katie Hartford

June 23 .....Nate Hartford

June 08 .....Joanna Henderson

June 23 .....Heather Terragni

June 08 .....Barbara Keshen

June 24.....Lyn Marshall

June 08 .....Heidi Page

June 25 .....Scott Mayo

June 11 .....Julia Peabody-Harhigh

June 26.....Emmett Leblanc

June 12 .....Martha (Marty) Savoy

June 26 .....Cara Leuchtenberger

June 13 .....Judy Gillis

June 28.....Anne Meyers

June 15 .....Fran Philippe



# Transforming Ourselves

## June/July 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](http://www.concorduu.org/calendar)

Remember to keep your eBulletin for private Zoom links

Click to register and receive the Zoom link to join us.



Music Sunday | June 7 | Live Streaming



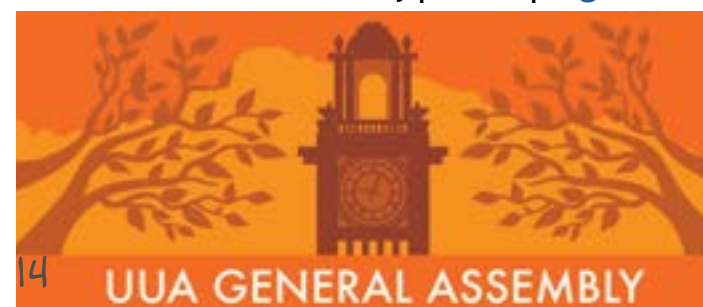
Flower Communion | June 14 | Live Streaming



Silent Auction | June 6-14 | Google Drive Coming  
 Live Auction | June 14 | Zoom Room to Come



June 24-28 General Assembly | Online | [Register](#)



Talent Show | June 14 | Zoom Room to Come



# Growing Spiritually

## 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  
 224-0291 x4 lea@concorduu.org

**Office Administrator** | Heidi Page  
 224-0291 x2 heidi@concorduu.org

**Facility Manager** | Kathie Martin  
 717-5268 (emergencies only)

## Officers

**Moderator** | Barbara Keshen  
**Clerk** | Sara McNeil  
**Treasurer** | Karen Mayo  
**Custodian of Trust Funds** | Jack Wakelin  
**Assistant Treasurer** | Beth Corcoran  
**Assistant Treasurer** | Lorraine Ellis

## Board of Trustees

**Chair** | Anne Drewniak  
**Vice-Chair** | Ann Hoey  
**Secretary** | Zoe Picard  
 Kelly Mahony  
 Jeff Fetter

## Check out our Live stream

Stay connected this summer through our live streamed services on Sundays at 10 am. Continue to share pictures, videos or art by sending them to [lyn@concorduu.org](mailto:lyn@concorduu.org) or upload them to [File Upload](#). We love to show them as part of the COVID Diary before and after each service. Post-service Zoom links can be found below the live stream window, on our web calendar, in the eBulletin, and at [concorduu.org/after-service-offerings/](http://concorduu.org/after-service-offerings/)

**After hour Zoom links can be found at the bottom of the live streaming page, on our web calendar, eBulletin, and at <https://concorduu.org/after-service-offerings/>**

## Parish Notes Deadline Schedule:

ISSUE	DUE
Aug	Mon. July 20

Please email articles and images by end of day to [ParishNotes@ConcordUU.org](mailto:ParishNotes@ConcordUU.org)

## 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](mailto:ebulletin@ConcordUU.org)

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord**

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Concord, NH 03301-2551

603-224-0291

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

[www.concorduu.org](http://www.concorduu.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Draw some surfers or sea creatures.

