

NOV  
2020

# Parish Notes

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord



## Minister's Musings

[You can now watch Minister's Musings by clicking here.](#)

**Can our community plate raise \$40,000 on November 8th?  
I think we can and here is why:**

Three years ago, on December 10, 2017, our Sunday plate raised an astonishing **\$19,014** in donations and pledges for the first Safe Spaces campaign of the [Concord Coalition to End Homelessness \(CCEH\)](#). I am still blown away each time I remember the moment. What happened? My [January 2018 Musings](#) highlight a range of reasons for this outburst of collective generosity including the incentive provided by a \$5,000 match offered by one of you.

Flash forward: CCEH is now in the middle of its second Safe Spaces campaign with a goal to raise a million dollars in private donations to support the programs that will end long-term homelessness in Concord - twice the goal of three years ago. Here is why I believe we can double our previous total: **The first \$10,000 raised on November 8th (or as part of this community plate special) will not only be doubled, but quadrupled!**

A non-UU has pledged to double any gifts up to \$100,000, and several generous UUs have stepped up to offer a \$10,000 match within the match. In other words, if you pledge or donate \$1,000, our internal church match will double that to \$2,000 and the external match will turn it into a \$4,000 gift to CCEH.

CCEH created a special [UU Safe Spaces II Pledge Form](#) just for us. Pledges are good for three years and payments can be made any time before June 30, 2023. Of course, you can also use our usual online community plate option on November 8th or mail in a check.

The Youth Group also decided to participate in "shifting homelessness." The youth will donate whatever money they earn during one of their "work" shifts - whether that's at Chipotles, EVO's climbing gym, or doing chores for a neighbor or family friend. I told my son Noah I would double his contribution, but when word spread among the youth they decided they would all donate to Noah so I would have to double their contribution as well. I accepted the challenge. :-)

So now there is a match within a match within a match. This means \$50 from a youth will magically turn into \$400 for CCEH to provide essential services to those experiencing homelessness in our community, and for their work toward the goal of ensuring everyone has a stable, safe, affordable and decent place to call home.

I hope you will join us on November 8th to help create another one of those moments, to help write another UU story we will be excited to share for years to come.

With great gratitude and appreciation for being a part of such an amazing congregation.

**Michael** (Senior Minister & Immediate Past Chair, CCEH Board of Directors)

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

## November 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. See page 6 for November's themes.

**Our UU theology calls us to defend our democracy. If you are in need of a ride to the polls or other assistance with voting, please let Lea Smith at [lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org) or any UU staff member know.**



### What Does It Mean to Be a People of Healing?

Our theme for worship and faith development this month asks us to explore this question - and I encourage you to think about how you will explore it intellectually, how you will explore it emotionally, how you could incorporate the question into your personal spiritual practices, and how you might act as an agent of healing - for yourself, for other people, and for the interconnected web of all existence.

As the pandemic grinds on, we wonder when life will ever feel normal again. This month begins with our clocks "falling back," and the daylight hours will continue to shrink until the winter solstice. For those among us who suffer from this loss of light, November can be a particularly challenging month. How will we heal ourselves and each other from the isolation of pandemic life and the darkness of the season?

November will also start with an election that feels more fraught than any I can remember, with a specter of violence that I think many of us are afraid to acknowledge for fear of somehow helping it come to pass. What would it look like for our nation to heal from the wounds of the past and present enmities?

While we've gotten some rain recently, the drought this summer has helped me experience the extreme weather across the country as something personal. The climate crisis is bearing down on us whether we are ready to address it or not. How will we act as healers for the environment that we need to sustain us?

What healing do you most need right now? What healing do you feel called to offer?

I look forward to exploring our answers and our questions together.

Lyn



## Meet Alex Woody

### Video & Audio Production Editor

We have hired a Video & Audio Production Editor to help with the creation and fine-tuning of our virtual choir recordings. His name is Alex Woody. He graduated in 2019 from Keene State College with a degree in Film Studies and Film Production and lives in Bow. Check out his [website](#) which includes a link to his monetized YouTube channel. (Ask your grandkids if you don't know how cool that is. :-))



# Contemplative Corner

## **NEW! 1st Monday Meditation in Motion-Chair Yoga Starts November 5 | 6-7 pm | Led by Marjorie Moulton | Zoom**

This class will consist of gentle stretches while seated as well as standing postures with the chair for support. Combined with deep breathing and body awareness, it is designed to relax the body and quiet the mind. We will conclude with seated meditation. A straight backed chair is required and a yoga mat is suggested for the standing postures.

## **NEW! 3rd Monday Meditation in Motion-YogaMeds November 16 | 6-7 pm | Led by Craig Whitson**

### **YogaMeds**

- Yoga as medication for the body
- Yoga as meditation for the mind and spirit

The practice consists of a series of stretches and gentle poses designed to counter all our sitting, slumping, bending and stressing (Slumpasana :-)

The focus will be on "opening up" poses, balancing poses, coupled with deep breathing throughout. Each session will conclude with a meditation - either seated (hero pose) or prone (shavasana)

It would be good to have a yoga mat, it would also be good to have a zafu, strap, and blocks if available. But this practice can be done with no props and be done (hero pose, cross legged) or in a chair. Appropriate for all skill levels.

If interested in either Monday Yoga please email [Office@ConcordUU.org](mailto:Office@ConcordUU.org)

## **Growing Sea Leggs in a Storm**

### ***Fall Retreat with Susan and Bill Morgan***

**Saturday, November 14 | 9 am-Noon & 2-5 pm | Live Online**

**Led by Susan and Bill Morgan | [Register by CC](#) or [Register by Check](#)**

Seasick from all the COVID changes? All are invited to join in a replenishing and interactive day of developing tools of calm, clarity and self-care, in warm-hearted community. The Contemplative Practices Group hosts its annual Fall retreat on **Saturday, November 14** with a Live Online retreat, **"Growing Sea Legs in Samsara: Mindfulness in Challenging Times,"** led by guest teachers Bill and Susan Morgan. This retreat will run from **9 AM to Noon and from 2 to 5 PM**, so there will be two 3-hour blocks of practice with a 2 hour lunch break. To register, please visit the church website. If you have questions, contact Jeanne Ann Whittington at [jawhittington3@gmail.com](mailto:jawhittington3@gmail.com)

**Registration fee \$20** -No one will be turned away for inability to pay. Please contact Jeanne Ann for a waiver.

The teachers are offering their services at no charge and there will be an opportunity to make an offering to help support their work.

## Friendly Kitchen Help Still Needed - UPDATE

submitted by Fran Philippe

**VOLUNTEER SUPPORT** to go to the Kitchen to prepare a meal on the first Wednesday of the month - sign up when you can. Be there between 3 and 6 pm, though times will vary depending upon what is being served. There will be no contact between cooks and the guests and the Kitchen is cleaned after each meal. Please contact Fran Philippe at [franphilippe38@gmail.com](mailto:franphilippe38@gmail.com)

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT** to pay for entrees purchased when there are not enough volunteers to go to the Kitchen on any given month. Contribute by check with Friendly Kitchen on the memo line.

Thank you!



## Jackbox.TV

**Saturday, November 7 @ 6 PM**

Join us for a new experience playing different games online together. Our Office Administrator Heidi Page's son Christian will host and help explain how it works. Up to 8 players will be playing a game and others can watch and cheer on the players. We will be playing while in a Zoom room to make it more fun by interacting.

Jackbox Games titles are easy to pick up and play for gamers and non-gamers alike. They have

worked hard to make sure you never need detailed instructions to get into a game and start having fun. That said, here are some detailed instructions!

So, you want to play Jackbox Games! Great choice. Getting started is easy! For Jackbox games, your phone or tablet is the controller and up to 8 people can play. Sometimes more! The main action of the game happens on your TV (or wherever you launched the game), but players use their own mobile devices to input answers and make choices. All Jackbox games are rated T For Teen. Many games have a family-friendly mode that can be turned on in the game's settings menu, which brings the game closer to an E10+ rating!

### Grab a Mobile Device and Join in on the FUN!!

**Video:** [How to play Jackbox Games](#)

**Join Zoom Room to Start:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/717813038?pwd=TnlCdXZvQ3JyQnBtQnMvZTRJa2hrUTog>

**Meeting ID:** 717 813 038 **Passcode:** 724618

**Then to play:** [Conect to Jackbox.tv](#)

## November Worship Services

### **11/1/2020 “The Courage to Heal,” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

It takes courage to acknowledge what needs healing. It takes courage to see healing as a choice. Healing involves facing our own woundedness. It means becoming aware of how we can move up the scale of emotions from feelings like shame, guilt, fear and anger through courage, willingness and acceptance toward love, joy and peace. What is possible at the personal level ought to be possible at the cultural level - provided we have the courage to try.

Our first Sunday drop-in covenant group will focus on our monthly theme of “Healing.” All are invited to participate. Rev. Lyn Marshall will facilitate.

### **11/8/2020 “What Now,” Rev. Lyn Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

Regardless of the outcome, our national election will leave us with raw emotions, unresolved hurts, and an unsettled future. Come be in community so we can hold each other, explore options for healing, and allow space to wonder: What Now?

Our community plate will be a special event - a UU match within a community match that will quadruple your gifts and pledges in support of the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness' efforts to show we can make long-term homelessness a thing of the past.

### **11/15/2020 “Historical Wounds,” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

The souls of most nations carry historical wounds. Different countries have taken different approaches to healing those wounds. What can we learn from Germany, South Africa, Rwanda and others as we confront the historical wounds that continue to fester within U.S. culture? How can we move towards healing the long-term impact of the violence, disrespect, and sense of white supremacy ingrained in our history and our nation's relationship with indigenous peoples?

### **11/22/2020 “Healing in Community,” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

Community can be an essential factor in our healing journeys. Come listen to voices from within our congregation about how our church or other communities have been a healing presence in their lives. If you have a story to share, please let Michael know.

### **11/29/2020 “The Healers Around Us,” Rev. Lyn Marshall**

When you need healing, to whom or to what do you turn? Sometimes the answer feels obvious; sometimes it feels terribly elusive. What helps us connect with the healers around us? What gets in the way of finding the healing we seek?

## Thanksgiving Baskets for Local Families Will Happen Assembly Outside Sunday, November 22 @ 2 pm

UUFOR (Friends of Refugees) is recruiting **masked volunteers** to assemble Thanksgiving Baskets on **Sunday, November 22 at 2 pm** for 20 families. Ten masked adults are needed to help set up and distribute fresh vegetables, fruits, grains and meat for a **drive-thru assembly line outside on the sidewalk in front of church**. Ten other masked adults are needed to drive-thru and collect two baskets of food each for delivery within Concord. Drivers will only get out of their cars to do a **“knock and drop” delivery** of baskets at their final destinations. Distribution of food will happen in **single-person stations set up six feet apart**.

If you would like to know more about our Covid-safe plan--please contact Julia Freeman-Woolpert at [juliafw@comcast.net](mailto:juliafw@comcast.net).

If you can help set up stations, person a station or deliver the boxes that afternoon -- please contact Christina Oliva at [oliva.christina@yahoo.com](mailto:oliva.christina@yahoo.com).

Or if you can help purchase and deliver the groceries--please contact Cheryl Bourassa at [cbourassa59@gmail.com](mailto:cbourassa59@gmail.com)

### Thanksgiving Baskets for UUs in Need

If you are a church Member or Friend whose holiday would be enriched by a Thanksgiving basket of fresh foods, **you may confidentially request one before November 10** from our ministers, or from Lea at [lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org) or **603-224-0291 ext 4#**. To help avoid awkward assumptions, if you know of a UU in need, please ask them to be in touch with us directly - or confirm with them it's ok to make this request on their behalf before you do so. We are happy to customize our baskets for vegetarians or other special diets.



# Looking Ahead Together: Our Themes for 2020-21

September **Renewal**

October **Deep Listening**

November **Healing**

December **Stillness**

January **Imagination**

February **Beloved Community**

March **Commitment**

April **Becoming**

May **Story**

June **Play**

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES

2 .....Daniel Leuchtenberger

4 .....D Swan

5 .....William Shepard

6 .....Molly Lu McKellar

7 .....Chris LeGrand

7 .....Jensen Main

8 .....Lorraine Ellis

9 .....Iain Downie

9 .....Mael Jacques

9 .....Glen Todd

10 .....Annika Ingersoll

10 .....Erika Ingersoll

10 .....Autumn Knowlton

13 .....Hewie Pollard Messenger

14 .....Steve Roberts

15 .....Azalea Morgan

17 .....Peggy Herbert

17 .....Lucien Fite

17 .....Miah Munro

17 .....Serena Munro

21 .....David Canfield

21 .....Maggie Hyndman

22 .....Colin Bennett

23 .....Deb Bridges-Cooper

23 .....Geoffrey Terragni

24 .....Autumn Meier

24 .....Duncan Roff

26 .....Susan Koerber

## NEW Parish Notes Section | Justice Notes

Be sure to check out extra pages at the end of this issue. We have a new section dedicated to ACTION in the community that will have articles and ways for you to participate in online, discussion groups, documentaries, letter writing campaigns, in person rallies and car rallies. A little something for everyone. If you find something during the month that would be good to share please send it to ParishNotes@ConcordUU.

Thank you.



## Thanksgiving Social Saturday November 21

Two opportunities to join your church family for a non-traditional Thanksgiving Social - join one or both!

**2:30 pm Hike the Winant trails** behind the church (with masks and social distance.)

**5:00 pm Zoom Social, suggested attire "Zoom Formal"**

We'll gather on Zoom in our holiday finest, in keeping with the pandemic Zoom fashion of waist up. Don your suit coat with your PJ bottoms or pair your cocktail dress with yoga pants. This silliness is optional but encouraged!

After an initial meet and greet in one big room, we'll break into small groups for metaphorical "appetizers", then switch the rooms up to meet new people for "dinner," followed by a third switch for "dessert." After "dessert", we can leave the Zoom room open if some people want to remain together to eat their real dinner and keep the party going.

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## BOT Meeting Highlights by Zoe Picard

### September the Board:

- Resumed Moral Owners exploration
- Committed to read and discuss [UU Commission on Institutional Change Report](#)
- Reviewed Financials -- e.g. Investments and Loan Rollforward FY2020

### October the Board:

- Discussed role of process, e.g. Robert's Rules, in governance, after some trustees attended the recent annual meeting of the Northern New England District. The meeting resulted in the dissolution of the NNED.
- Resumed Moral Owners exploration
- Discussed background and purpose of the [UU Commission on Institutional Change Report – Widening the Circle](#). Shared individual reactions and reflections.

# Growing Sea Legs in a Storm: Mindfulness in Challenging Times

Fall Retreat | Nov 14, 2020 | 9-Noon & 2-5 PM | Zoom  
Guest teachers with Bill Morgan, Psy.D. and Susan Morgan CNS  
Sponsored by UU Church of Concord

*Meditation can serve many functions.*

*It can help with stress management.*

*It can support psychological growth.*

*It can create a safe harbor in stormy seas.*

*It can mitigate the pandemic trance of unworthiness.*

*It can increase clarity and stability of mind.*

*It can deepen the well of compassion.*

During exceptional times of extreme chaos in the world, as in now, when anxiety and uncertainty take center stage, meditation can serve a detoxifying function, without which we can feel decentered, overwhelmed, fraying at the edges.

This day of practice will **not** emphasize deep states of calm or transformative insight. Instead we will focus on simple practices to release accumulated patterns of tension in body, breath, heart- mind and replenish the heart with good food.

Periods of sitting meditation will be interspersed with standing, walking, mindfulness of the body exercises and mindful speaking and listening.

Sitting alone together can strengthen resolve, help us to feel HELD internally and externally in a holding environment of good company, and offer a sense of connection to like-minded others.

To learn more about Bill & Susan please visit <https://www.billandsusan.org/about-us>

**SCHEDULE:** 9am -12pm EST and meet up again from 2 - 5 pm EST

**Registration fee:** \$20

No one will be turned away for inability to pay. Please contact Jeanne Ann for a waiver.

The teachers are offering their services at no charge and there will be an opportunity to make an offering to help support their work.

**REGISTRATION:** by [Credit Card click here](#) or by [Check click here](#).

# Taizé Service

Second Sundays @ 7 pm

(October to April)

Live Streaming

[ConcordUU.org/live](https://ConcordUU.org/live)



Join us for an hour of

**Meditative Singing**

with instruments,

a brief reading, silence, and candlelight.

*“A time of beauty and peace for body & spirit.”*

A contemplative and spiritual experience  
for people of any faith tradition or none. All are welcome!

## NOVEMBER 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**

**All meetings & rehearsals are through Zoom unless otherwise noted.**

Links are available through private emails or public calendar listings.

### Sunday, 11/1 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, 11/1 @ 11:30 AM

**Exploring Membership Group**

Sunday, 11/1 @ 8:30 PM

**POP parents of preschoolers**

Monday, 11/2 @ 6 PM | **NEW Chair Yoga**

Tuesday, 11/3 @ 7 PM

**ELECTION DAY UU Check-in**

Saturday, 11/7 @ 6 PM

**Jackbox.TV Youth Group**

Sunday, 11/8 @ 7:00 PM | **Taize**

Live Streaming

Saturday, 11/14 @ 9 AM

**Growing Sea Legs in a Storm Retreat**

Monday, 11/16 @ 6 PM |

**NEW Meditation in Motion-Yoga**

Saturday, 11/21 @ 2:30 PM

**Thanksgiving Walk**

Saturday, 11/21 @ 5 PM

**Thanksgiving Formal Social**

Sunday, 11/22 @ 2 PM

**UUFOR Thanksgiving Basket Assembly**

Thursday 11/26 & Friday 27

**HOLIDAY for Staff**

Thanksgiving Social | NOV 21 | Walk @ 2:30 PM



Meditation in Motion-Chair Yoga | NOV 2 | 6 PM



Taize | NOV 8 | 7 PM | Live Streaming



Meditation in Motion-YogaMeds | NOV 16 | 6 PM



Thanksgiving Social | NOV 21 | Zoom Social @ 5 PM





## Office Currently Closed

Merrimack County is currently in the red for COVID cases. Due to higher transmission our office is closed to appointments. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help you in any way, we can be reached my email or phone at ([lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org) or 603-224-0291 ext 4#) or Heidi ([heidi@concorduu.org](mailto:heidi@concorduu.org) or 603-224-0291 ext 2#).

We miss you all very much and hope that we can gather again in the not too distant future.

**Parish Notes Deadline Schedule:**

ISSUE	DUE
DEC	Wed. NOV 18

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

### Staff

**Senior Minister** | Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger  
715-7557 (cell), [michael@concorduu.org](mailto:michael@concorduu.org)

### Minister of Lifespan Faith Development

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### Finance Assistant

| Christina Oliva

### Officers

**Treasurer** | Karen Mayo

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**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)

Watch Now and attend Virtual Event on Nov 5

## Driving While Black: Race, Space & Mobility In America

Discover how the advent of the automobile brought new mobility and freedom for African Americans but also exposed them to discrimination and deadly violence, and how that history resonates today.

P.S. Watch for one of New Hampshire's gems, Valerie Cunningham, as she shares the Rock Rest story.

[View film on NHPBS here.](#)

Thursday, November 5, 5 – 6 PM

*Virtual Event*

### Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights



In this virtual talk, acclaimed historian Gretchen Sorin reveals how the car—the ultimate symbol of independence and possibility—has always held particular importance for African Americans. Cars helped black families evade some of the many dangers presented by an entrenched racist society and enjoy, in some measure, the freedom of the open road. She recounts the creation of a parallel, unseen world of black motorists, who relied on travel guides, black-only businesses, and informal communications networks to keep them safe.

*\$20, \$10 Historic New England members. Registration required.  
The link for the webinar will be sent in a separate email.*

**For more information  
and to register, visit**  
[HistoricNewEngland.org/DrivingWhileBlack](https://HistoricNewEngland.org/DrivingWhileBlack)  
617-994-6679

  
**HISTORIC  
NEW ENGLAND**  
*Defining the past. Shaping the future.*



## The Black Matter is Life Poetry for Engagement and Overcoming

5:00 PM November 18 | December 9 | January 21

Join us this winter for a virtual series of public conversations entitled, *The Black Matter is Life: Poetry for Engagement and Overcoming*. In this series, UNH professors Dr. Reginald A. Wilburn and Dr. Dennis Britton will explore and discuss the rich tradition and innovation found in African American poetry.

Read more at <http://blackheritagetrailnh.org/the-black-matter-is-life/>



## Stop Funding Tar Sands Day of Solidarity ups the pressure!

Momentum against tar sands pipelines, including Keystone XL, is heating up. UUMFE, along with other organizations, supported the Liberty Mutual campaign by signing onto a letter of support for the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association's demands that the company stop insuring the Keystone XL pipeline immediately and meet with Indigenous leaders. Get inspired by global solidarity, and participate in the call to action.

Letter: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/14JAMgO\\_ESzQjC85n82\\_rM1a5Z7xMeoXvCYYS-83sCkE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14JAMgO_ESzQjC85n82_rM1a5Z7xMeoXvCYYS-83sCkE/edit)

Demands: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15U6RJsOIV5VCvv7V2NNSWTejmkrXpvvz/view>

Call to Action: [https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/liberty-mutual-end-your-support-of-tc-energy-meet-with-tribal-leaders?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/liberty-mutual-end-your-support-of-tc-energy-meet-with-tribal-leaders?source=direct_link&)

Learn More: <https://www.uumfe.org/2020/10/11/uumfe-signs-on-to-letter-of-support-for-the-great-plains-tribal-chairmens-association/>

## Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered

Nov 10, 2017 — At the 2016 UUA General Assembly, a business resolution was passed calling on UUs to engage in education.

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the ship “Mayflower” in the region now known as New England; and

WHEREAS, concern has been expressed by Native American tribal leaders, by human rights advocates, by environmental justice advocates, and by others, about the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the colonization of New England; and

WHEREAS, several of the New England congregations that were established during the 1600s continue today as Unitarian Universalist congregations; and

NOTING the role of Unitarian Universalists in developing the holiday that is known as “the American Thanksgiving Day”; and

NOTING the desire of Unitarian Universalists to work for peace and justice for all the world’s people;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly encourages all Unitarian Universalists to enter a time of education, careful reflection, and healing, during the years 2016-2021, and that special attention be given to the suffering, indignity, and loss that native peoples have suffered since the early 1600s; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly asks the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association to report to the 2017 General Assembly on national, tribal, and congregational plans for both the 400th anniversary of the “Mayflower” voyage and the 400th anniversary of the first harvest festival in Plymouth Colony; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly asks the President of the Association to work in consultation with Native American peoples to present recommendations to UU congregations, districts, camps, and theological schools that wish to observe what is often called “the first Thanksgiving Day in America;” and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage Unitarian Universalists to work with all of the religious groups that trace their religious root to the Pilgrims and the Puritans. When we confront the past that we share with others, we ask for wisdom with charity as we try to better understand the people and the environment of the 1600s. To prepare for the future, we must make peace with our past. As we approach the Plymouth Colony quadricentennial dates, we ask for religious education programs that acknowledge the Radical Reformation and the religious Dissenters and Separatists of the 1600s. The story of religious Dissenters and Separatists is part of our Unitarian Universalist story, and their influence is still with us. We ask for religious education programs that honor and respect the spiritual wisdom of indigenous people, including the Wampanoag Tribal Nation (of Mashpee, Massachusetts), who first met the Pilgrims. We ask for all UU congregations across the United States of America to enter into dialogue with the local Native People in their areas about the Thanksgiving holiday and its history. In today’s world, we know that we are part of an interdependent web of all existence. With this awareness in mind, we ask for a time of truth and reconciliation for all Americans, including Native People, during the years 2016-2021.

For more information contact [socialjustice@uua.org](mailto:socialjustice@uua.org).



## 51st National Day of Mourning

November 26th – Observe the live-stream of the 51st National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts, organized by the United American Indians of New England, and a Thanksgiving message from UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray.

Since 1970, Native Americans and our supporters have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. Thanksgiving day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.

### 51st National Day of Mourning: November 26, 2020 @ 12:00 Noon Coles Hill, Plymouth, MA

**Details to be announced:** please continue to check this page ([uaine.org](http://uaine.org)) and especially our Facebook group (ask to join!) for updates.

**Facebook group United American Indians of New England (UAINE group):** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE/>

**Uaine.org** <http://www.uaine.org/>

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Please email [info@uaine.org](mailto:info@uaine.org) and put the word “Volunteer” in the subject line to let us know your availability.

In particular, we often need volunteers in the Boston area in the two or three days before National Day of Mourning to help with food prep. We also need volunteers on November 26th in Plymouth. Thank you!

#### **DONATIONS:**

Monetary donations are gratefully accepted to help defray the costs of the day. Go to [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com) to make a [donation](#). Every donation is greatly appreciated!

# Thanksgiving: A National Day of Mourning for Indians, 1998

by Moonanum James and Mahtowin Munro

*In 1996, the 'Latinos for Social Change' marched to the Plymouth Commons at the same time the Mayflower Society had their Pilgrim Progress parade, to show support for the UAIINE. Police re-routed the Pilgrim parade to avoid conflict. In 1997, the Pilgrim Progress parade was held earlier and went undisturbed. Those who gathered to commemorate the 28th National Day of Mourning, in 1997, were met by police and state troopers. Some accounts allege that pepper spray was used on children and the elderly. Twenty-five people were arrested on charges ranging from battery of a police officer to assembling without a permit. In an effort to avoid another conflict, the state reached a settlement with UAIINE in October 1998. The settlement stated that the UAIINE is allowed to march without a permit, as long as advanced notice is provided to Plymouth.*

Every year since 1970, United American Indians of New England have organized the National Day of Mourning observance in Plymouth at noon on Thanksgiving Day. Every year, hundreds of Native people and our supporters from all four directions join us. Every year, including this year, Native people from throughout the Americas will speak the truth about our history and about current issues and struggles we are involved in.

Why do hundreds of people stand out in the cold rather than sit home eating turkey and watching football? Do we have something against a harvest festival?

Of course not. But Thanksgiving in this country -- and in particular in Plymouth -- is much more than a harvest home festival. It is a celebration of the pilgrim mythology.

According to this mythology, the pilgrims arrived, the Native people fed them and welcomed them, the Indians promptly faded into the background, and everyone lived happily ever after.

The truth is a sharp contrast to that mythology.

The pilgrims are glorified and mythologized because the circumstances of the first English-speaking colony in Jamestown were frankly too ugly (for example, they turned to cannibalism to survive) to hold up as an effective national myth. The pilgrims did not find an empty land any more than Columbus "discovered" anything. Every inch of this land is Indian land. The pilgrims (who did not even call themselves pilgrims) did not come here seeking religious freedom; they already had that in Holland. They came here as part of a commercial venture. They introduced sexism, racism, anti-lesbian and gay bigotry, jails, and the class system to these shores. One of the very first things they did when they arrived on Cape Cod -- before they even made it to Plymouth -- was to rob Wampanoag graves at Corn Hill and steal as much of the Indians' winter provisions of corn and beans as they were able to carry. They were no better than any other group of Europeans when it came to their treatment of the Indigenous peoples here. And no, they did not even land at that sacred shrine called Plymouth Rock, a monument to racism and oppression which we are proud to say we buried in 1995.

The first official "Day of Thanksgiving" was proclaimed in 1637 by Governor Winthrop. He did so to celebrate the safe return of men from the Massachusetts Bay Colony who had gone to Mystic, Connecticut to participate in the massacre of over 700 Pequot women, children, and men.

About the only true thing in the whole mythology is that these pitiful European strangers would not have survived their first several years in "New England" were it not for the aid of Wampanoag people. What Native people got in return for this help was genocide, theft of our lands, and never-ending repression. We are treated either as quaint relics from the past, or are, to most people, virtually invisible.

When we dare to stand up for our rights, we are considered unreasonable. When we speak the truth about the history of the European invasion, we are often told to "go back where we came from." Our roots are right here. They do not extend across any ocean.

National Day of Mourning began in 1970 when a Wampanoag man, Wamsutta Frank James, was asked to speak at a state dinner celebrating the 350th anniversary of the pilgrim landing. He refused to speak false words in praise of the white man for bringing civilization to us poor heathens. Native people from throughout the Americas came to Plymouth, where they mourned their forebears who had been sold into slavery, burned alive, massacred, cheated, and mistreated since the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620.

But the commemoration of National Day of Mourning goes far beyond the circumstances of 1970.

Can we give thanks as we remember Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, who was framed up by the FBI and has been falsely imprisoned since 1976? Despite mountains of evidence exonerating Peltier and the proven misconduct of federal prosecutors and the FBI, Peltier has been denied a new trial. Bill Clinton apparently does not feel that particular pain and has refused to grant clemency to this innocent man.

To Native people, the case of Peltier is one more ordeal in a litany of wrongdoings committed by the U.S. government against us. While the media in New England present images of the "Pequot miracle" in Connecticut, the vast majority of Native people continue to live in the most abysmal poverty.

Can we give thanks for the fact that, on many reservations, unemployment rates surpass fifty percent? Our life expectancies are much lower, our infant mortality and teen suicide rates much higher, than those of white Americans. Racist stereotypes of Native people, such as those perpetuated by the Cleveland Indians, the Atlanta Braves, and countless local and national sports teams, persist. Every single one of the more than 350 treaties that Native nations signed has been broken by the U.S. government. The bipartisan budget cuts have severely reduced educational opportunities for Native youth and the development of new housing on reservations, and have caused deadly cutbacks in health-care and other necessary services.

Are we to give thanks for being treated as unwelcome in our own country?

Or perhaps we are expected to give thanks for the war that is being waged by the Mexican government against Indigenous peoples there, with the military aid of the U.S. in the form of helicopters and other equipment? When the descendants of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca flee to the U.S., the descendants of the wash-ashore pilgrims term them "illegal aliens" and hunt them down.

We object to the "Pilgrim Progress" parade and to what goes on in Plymouth because they are making millions of tourist dollars every year from the false pilgrim mythology. That money is being made off the backs of our slaughtered indigenous ancestors.

Increasing numbers of people are seeking alternatives to such holidays as Columbus Day and Thanksgiving. They are coming to the conclusion that, if we are ever to achieve some sense of community, we must first face the truth about the history of this country and the toll that history has taken on the lives of millions of Indigenous, Black, Latino, Asian, and poor and working class white people.

The myth of Thanksgiving, served up with dollops of European superiority and manifest destiny, just does not work for many people in this country. As Malcolm X once said about the African-American experience in America, "We did not land on Plymouth Rock. Plymouth Rock landed on us." Exactly.

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**What is your favorite pie?**

**How are your family and friends celebrating Thanksgiving with safe distancing this year?**

