

JAN  
2022

# Parish Notes

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord



Living with Intention

## Vaccination is required

Our Pandemic Policy Team wants to put in a strong word for all eligible persons to be vaccinated and boosted. Right now while transmission is so high and hospitals are strained, we require vaccination and boosters (if eligible) to attend worship (20 people max by preregistration) or meetings at the church. Children must have their first dose, and starting Jan. 16 we will expect them to be fully vaccinated.

The City of Concord is offering a free vaccine clinic for ages 5 and up on January 9. [Click here](#) for more info.

Don't hesitate to talk to any member of the Pandemic Policy Team if you have questions or concerns: Jeff Fetter, Belinda Nerl, Jim Schlosser, BJ Entwisle, Heidi Page, Lea Smith, Rev. Lyn Marshall, and Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger.

## Fellowship on Sunday Mornings

The name tag rack is now located in the rear of the sanctuary for easy access no matter which entrance you use. After the service, please keep your name tag on for social time. Then, drop it in one of three baskets conveniently located: 1) outside the front Sanctuary entrance, 2) in Fellowship Hall, or 3) inside the east entrance. Someone will return them to the rack before next Sunday.

Until COVID subsides, we won't be offering refreshments during social time. If you tend to be parched after the worship service, please bring along a beverage to enjoy outdoors.



## Pastoral Corner

Our Pastoral Care Associates are available to listen as you discern your journey – whether you are wrestling with transitions, spiritual questions, other issues, or would just like to share your story. Call or email, or look for the green “Pastoral Care Associate” ribbon on their name tags on a Sunday, to begin a conversation. Pastoral Care Associates are volunteers who receive training from and meet regularly with our professional staff.

Pastoral Care Associates are ready to listen to you, visit you, talk to you on the phone or just be present with you at home, in the hospital, or here at church.

**Contact our Pastoral Care Associate** by emailing [Michael@ConcordUU.org](mailto:Michael@ConcordUU.org) or [Lyn@ConcordUU.org](mailto:Lyn@ConcordUU.org).

Cover photo Christmas Eve Service 2021 by Heidi Page



*In early December, we sent out our annual holiday letter. By a stroke of rotten luck, the mailing coincided with a website outage that was beyond our control. As a result, people weren't able to respond to the letter. So, like the beaver described in Ann Hoey's holiday letter below, we are trying again. In this spirit, our New Year wish for you is strength, patience, and serenity in the face of life's obstacles.*

*Cheers!*

Dear Church Family,

This past summer, on one of my daily walks around my neighborhood, I heard some rustling in the woods and a sharp crack of a tree falling. As I got closer to a body of water that the town uses as a fire retention pond, I spied a beaver edging into the water, a finely chiseled log in its mouth. I watched as the beaver pushed the log against a small opening that drained into a gully beneath the road. The beaver swam around the pond, seemingly unperturbed by my near presence. Each day, I noted the progress of the dam, which grew larger and sturdier. I watched as the little pond rose higher, especially after the rainy days of July. One day, two men from the town's public works department were at the pond, destroying the dam and constructing an elaborate by-pass. The high water level of the pond was causing the pond to overflow its banks and flood the road. The beaver, nonplussed, was back the next day doing its beaver dam-building with efficiency and skill. After a time the road crew returned, made more adjustments and left. Again and again, the beaver took up where he left off, and the dam continued to take shape. After several weeks, the town crew prevailed, and the beaver (and possibly a mate) left to make a real estate claim elsewhere.

So what has this to do with our church? I think the beaver's tenacity in the face of challenges helped my spirit during this continued pandemic and its attendant fatigue. Sometimes, you just have to keep going, doing what needs to be done. Our congregation--our ministers, staff, committees and all of those involved in building a more loving and kind community--has just kept going during this challenging year, doing the important work that needs to be done and that we have pledged to do. So many people have developed creative ways to keep us connected, engaged and grounded. Hybrid services and meetings offer a way for all to be involved, and outreach continues to those within and outside our community.

We are all tired at having to adapt and switch gears, but we can share in the energy of the church and feel inspired to keep going. The beaver may not have prevailed, but I know that our church will.

Please support the important work of the Concord UU Church by making a special holiday donation. You may donate using the link below or by mailing a check to the church marked "holiday gift." Your generosity will be gratefully appreciated.

*Wishing you peace, joy and good health,*

*Ann Hoey  
Board President*

**Secure Giving through BREEZE** <https://concorduu.org/holiday-giving/>

**Or mail check with "HOLIDAY GIFT" in the memo line to:  
UU Church of Concord,  
274 Pleasant St,  
Concord, NH 03301**

## **JANUARY Worship Services | Theme: Living with Intention**

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

### **1/2/2021 “The Meaning of Life” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

The meaning of life is to be good at soccer or choral singing. For those who don't find this obvious, the sermon will unpack these claims by looking at how great thinkers have framed the questions that matter as we search for life's meaning and how it relates to a life full of meaning.

Our First Sunday drop-in covenant group will focus on our monthly theme of “Living with Intention”. All are invited to participate. Revs. Lyn Marshall & Michael Leuchtenberger will facilitate on Zoom and in person.

### **1/9/2021 “A Life of Meaning” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger & Others**

A life of meaning involves a sense that our life matters - from a eulogy perspective rather than a resume perspective, and that we are immersed in things we both love doing, and admire. David Brooks points to three projects as essential to a worthy life: (1) Be in internal harmony with ourselves, (2) Be in harmony with others, and (3) Commit to some great loves. How have those projects provided meaning in your life? Is there more? If you have a story to share, let Michael know.

### **1/9/2021 Taizé Service [visit concorduu.org/worship/taize-services/](https://concorduu.org/worship/taize-services/)**

### **1/16/2021 “Paved with Good Intentions” Rev. Lyn Marshall**

Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered for how he lived out his intention to create a better world where racism and poverty would be things of the past. In his 1963 Letter from a Birmingham Jail, King addressed white clergy who had condemned his participation in protests as unwise and untimely, saying, “... since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and that your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.” He proceeds to make an elegant critique of the white liberal's call to “wait” as being as harmful as the blatantly racist, violent actions of the Ku Klux Klan. How are white liberals doing now as allies in the unfinished work of antiracism? What has changed since 1963, and what persists? How can we - as individuals, and as a congregation - ensure that our actions align with our intention to create a more just and equitable society?

### **1/23/2021 “The Impossible Dream: Making the Impossible Possible”**

**Rev. Suzanne Rude**

Nepalese mountaineer Nirmal Purja, American biochemist Jennifer Doudna and other modern-day achievers, both famous and more obscure, started with big, bold dreams. Dreams that seemed unlikely, difficult, and perhaps even impossible. Yet, they persisted. They envisioned success, devised intentional plans, and set to work. How can we be inspired by their stories to reach beyond the apparent odds and move towards fulfilling our own intentions and dreams?

### **1/30/2021 “Free Will as Moral Imagination” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

“Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.” These words attributed to Victor Frankl assume there is such a thing as free will. Whether we share this assumption or not, it is critical that we pretend there is free will as we face and address the suffering in our world. Our moral imagination depends on (the illusion of) free will.

# Games Indoors & Chocolates Outdoors NEW YEARS DAY

Saturday, Jan 1, 2022 1:00 pm till 3-ish

AND

Friday, Jan 7, 2022 6:30-8:30 pm

Fellowship Hall & Front Courtyard



Bring your family & friends (who are vaccinated). Also, please bring a snack to share outside. But “whoever you are, wherever you are, come, let us” share the fun together! We will break into separate rooms of 8-10 people as needed for safe distancing and use of air-purifiers. KN-95 or N-95 masks required indoors. We have some if you don't. If more than 10 arrive we will be spreading out into different rooms for safety.

## POSTPONED DUE TO RAIN & SLUSH

### New Years Day Hike & Bon Fire

### MOVED TO @ 2:30, SUNDAY, Jan. 9

Join a small group to celebrate the passing of 2021 with a COVID-compliant hike on the Winant trails followed by a bonfire in the Grove behind the church. Meet in the rear parking lot at 2:30 pm on Saturday.



### Smiles (with masks) & Rides

Do you need a ride to one of the services? Please let the office know. There are funds available for taxi rides, and possibly members who live close to you who are coming to a service that might be able to pick you up or drop you off. Email [office@concorduu.org](mailto:office@concorduu.org)

### Have you joined our private Facebook group Concord UU Connects yet?

If you are not already part of our FaceBook group, Concord UU Connects, please look us up and ask to join. This group is open to all active members and friends of the church to share ideas, concerns, and fun in a safe place.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/concorduuconnects>



# Star Island Employment Opportunities for UU and UCC Young Adults

Star Island is looking for summer staff applicants!

If you are not already familiar with Star Island, we run a seasonal religious and educational conference center off the New Hampshire coast and hire approximately 100 people (18 or older) to work from mid-June to mid-September. As our roots are linked to the UU and UCC faiths, working on Star offers a unique employment opportunity in a beautiful location, with a vibrant and welcoming community.

**The deadline to apply is January 24.**

For more information about working on Star Island, please visit our website [www.starisland.org/working](http://www.starisland.org/working) or feel free to contact us with questions at 603.430.6272.



## Why Are Restorative Circles Embraced by Our Church Community?

Winter is a time of hibernation, coming closer to our family. These past nearly two years have presented more challenges to how we are gathered than we can remember.. Our church family limited contact in the sanctuary and our building. We are connecting via zoom for many, if not most of our activities. This has brought with it opportunities for miscommunication, missed body language or entire lack of communication over important issues. From this you may be experiencing conflict with others. When conflict begins to keep us from our regular relationships we are consoled by reaching out, with support for reassurance, to the person with whom we are in conflict. Sometimes this doesn't feel possible.

The Restorative Circle team is available to assist those in the community having difficult conversations. We give opportunities for you to be heard and understood by those in the community who are involved with the conflict. The Restorative Circle facilitators speak with everyone before we gather as a community, to give you an opportunity to express and be understood on your side of the conflict. When we gather everyone in the Circle, we ask that you reflect on one another, in order to come to understand what has happened from each other's points of view. For now, we meet via zoom for these conversations.

We have found that building an understanding of everyone's feelings and needs and the circumstances of how the conflict came into being, brings calmness to those gathered. Everyone takes a step closer towards being with one another, coming to understand the impact on everyone. We are able to create a plan for improving our relationships and creating new ways of being together which are new and affirming of the worth and dignity of each person in the Circle. Let us know if you would like to speak with one of us by emailing: [circles@concorduu.org](mailto:circles@concorduu.org) with your contact information and the best time of day to reach out to you. We will do our best to reply within 24 hours to your request.



## **You have the skills! You have the interest!**

### **New Year with New Opportunities**

Are you new to the church and want to get more involved? Are you a member or friend that has some free time and you've maybe been toying with volunteering? Your skills and interest in the listing below would be much welcomed. These are current openings for which we have been looking for leadership for a while. If you would like to learn more about one or two of them or are ready to jump in and lead, please contact the person listed or the office.

### **Leadership Vacancies as of January 2022**

1. [Memorial Service Reception Coordinators](#)
2. [Wayside Pulpit organizer/scheduler](#)
3. [Auction Committee](#)
4. [Security Camera maintenance person](#)
5. [Community Plate committee members](#)
6. [Bookstore Coordinator](#)
7. [Literature Monitor - stocking UU literature outside the office](#)
8. [UUSC liaison](#)
9. [UU Village Camp-in leader](#)



## Rachel Sargent

I am delighted to be joining Concord UU. I live in Sanbornton, but have been a teacher at Concord High for almost 13 years, so Concord feels like home. I am passionate about being a little over-ambitious in my garden, my cats, social justice issues, and of course my family.

My husband and I have been looking for a community that could be spiritually nourishing to our three children as they grow, and with the pandemic we decided to give the Sunday services here a listen. We were both floored that there was a church that stood for all the things we stood for, and have truly fallen in love. This is the first church either of us has joined in our lives, and we feel like it is right for us. Thank you for being such a welcoming community.

## Faithe Miller-Lakowicz

Hello, friends. I'm very grateful to be a part of this wonderful community, and am looking forward to getting to know you better in the coming weeks, months, and years. I grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and lived in several cities across the U.S. before moving to New Hampshire about five years ago. I've been a practicing UU since 2014, and was previously a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, Maryland. I also attended online services with the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship for a while, before moving to Concord and finding my way to this church. Professionally, I have a degree in archeology, and used to spend my summers excavating Maya sites in the humid Belizean jungle. (This sounds like I'm bragging, but I'm really just hoping someone will want to talk anthropology with me after reading this.) My master's degree is in museum studies, and I spent several years as a curator, caring for artifacts and putting together exhibits, before joining the staff of the Concord Public Library in late 2020. (Please say "hi" if you see me there. The library is an excellent place to run into other UU's!) I love reading, traveling, being outdoors, organizing, and learning new things. I'm very passionate about social justice, broadly, but tend to focus my attention on decarceration and criminal justice reform; menstrual justice (e.g. accessibility to hygienic products, facilities, and education); and combating climate change. I also spent many, many hours volunteering during the last Presidential election, and have a bit of a love/hate relationship with politics. I'm blessed with a wonderful husband, two ferrets, a cat, an 18-year-old stepson, two nieces, and a nephew. Thanks to all of you for creating this wonderful, welcoming congregation, where we can all work together to make the world just a little more beautiful every day.



## Isaac Sargent

Autobiographies, eww, writing or talking about myself is always a struggle, and then when I get going how will I keep it less than 200 words? I'm at 30 already. I am a father, an idealist, an introvert, and an educator. I am gripped by the passion of ADHD which means I am always on the prowl to begin learning new things and start new projects. Rarely will I master a skill or finish said project.

The constants in my life have been a love of nature and being outside. I love to create things and make things with my hands. I am a problem solver by nature and can generate many creative ideas and solutions.

I also love my family and watching them grow. As a positive side effect of COVID, I have been lucky this year to home school my children and spend more time with them than I ever planned. I'm not sure how the future may impact this but I am grateful for the opportunity this year.



## Jeanne-Ann Whittington

Some folks may be surprised to see me among the new members, given that I've been showing up at this church for the past 25 years. The "why now?" is complicated, but it's one of many shifts brought about by the past few years. Among many other things, this has been a time of seeing more clearly what matters most, what serves life, and exploring commitment to that—as a limited human being, to human-sized undertakings, with human-sized expectations.

I appreciate the symbolism of writing one's name in the book, and I'm ready to do it. And, I can't overstate the extraordinary blessing of being so welcomed here, for all these years, with no message that there is one right way to participate. It is a rare gift of freely offered welcome and inclusion for all, and part of what makes me love this community.

Biographical details: I originally made my way from Texas to New Hampshire by way of some years in Massachusetts, living first in a rural retreat center in Barre, and then in Somerville, working in Cambridge and Boston. I now live in a beautiful spot in Dunbarton with my husband, Jim Halla. We have three high-energy grandchildren in Londonderry. I love to sing, to garden, to read and learn and travel, to walk and hike and dance and move in pretty much any way possible. I work in Concord as an acupuncturist and yoga teacher (the latter online since spring 2020), and I also teach Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction.

The choir has been my first family within this church, and has opened the door to much that is wonderful and sustaining in my current life. The Contemplative Practices group has been my second home, and I treasure the opportunity to nurture and share my meditation practice with others here. I hope that at some point there will be more free hours in my days, and I'll be able to get to know many more of the remarkable members of this community, and participate in more of the many activities and actions happening at the church and in the world.



## Betsey Neville

I spent my childhood traveling and living in many countries around the world before settling in Deering, New Hampshire in the 1970's. Being immersed in other cultures such as the Far East, I developed a strong affinity for them and the people, as well as the languages.

Although by nature a shy person, I have felt drawn to and found great satisfaction volunteering for immigration rights and social justice reform.

I also enjoy volunteering for Family Promise and serve on several boards including a scholarship fund for college applicants. Over the years I have been very active in supporting various political causes and helped found a statewide advocacy group for reproductive rights in 1977.

I have a master's degree in counseling psychology and particularly love working with children. I also really enjoyed volunteering as a reading tutor in my local elementary school for many years. I met my husband Rob,

the light of my life, at the Concord YMCA aerobics classes. We moved to Concord last year and love being close enough to the UU to attend weekly, become involved in some of its many diverse programs while meeting wonderful and caring people.

I am drawn to the core values of the Unitarian Universalist Church of inclusion, compassion and respect for diversity and all people. I love the emphasis on personal and spiritual growth and commitment to community service and how dedicated, supportive and deeply involved the UU is in so many aspects of the community. I am equally drawn to the very beautiful music performed by the choir and Calvin each and every week.

Some of my favorite pastimes include singing, playing the piano, studying languages, gardening (have a passion for growing flowers), poetry, travel, spending time with friends. Formerly an avid skier, tennis player and rollerblader, chronic Lyme disease has slowed my physical activities but has focused my inward journey.



## Ellen Groh

I have moved to Concord from Hollis, NH, as of August 2021, and I'm excited to join the Concord UU Church. (I was a member of the Milford UU congregation for over 20 years.) I've gotten to know many members of the Concord UU community through my work as Executive Director of the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness since 2014, and I've been deeply grateful and inspired by the generous support of this church for ending homelessness, and other social justice issues. My husband Lee and I have 2 sons: Aaron will soon graduate from college and Josh has just started college. (His graduation from high school is what paved the way to get to downsize to Concord!) Lee is an electrical engineer. You may see Lee now and then, but he is Jewish so may gravitate to the Temple. Our children were raised in both the UU and Jewish faiths, and now both are agnostic-leaning-atheist! I love hiking, biking, gardening, yoga, meditation, and good movies, books, and wine.



## **Sarah Keniston**

Some aspects of who I am feel set and solid while others continue to emerge and sometimes surprise me. Among the constants are my love children and amazement with their tumultuous journeys to adulthood, journey's I have witnessed with my 3 kids (ages 18, 21, and 24). I am and will always be a crazy (big) dog lady. If I don't have a project going I feel something is missing: it can be anything from designing and planting vegetable gardens to helping a friend figure out how to market their business and I find just as much pleasure in the planning and imagining of an undertaking as I do in its completion. I'd say I am a hard worker and feel incredibly lucky to love my work as a therapist. I was briefly a chef and will forever be a foodie- though now a veganesque foodie. One thing that has remained the same, but I hope to change, is that I have long felt that I don't do enough to give back nor

have I been as involved with my community as I aspire to be- I am not sure what holds me back, shyness, insecurity, feeling too busy.

Which brings me to some of the things that have changed. My nest is empty and so my former primary identity as a mom is shifting but to what, I am not sure. I have a new home in Henniker where I have deepened my appreciation of nature and concern about the environment (hence being veganesque). I feel more at peace and less stressed than I used to. I am looking forward to seeing what the future holds and what new challenges and changes are ahead.



## **Rob Blakeney**

My roots are in Concord, fortunate to attend local schools, and also this church, beginning at its No. State Street location. As a Unitarian Universalist, my respect for the value of all life and the importance of conscience helped me receive conscientious objector status during the VietNam draft, and I was doubly fortunate to work in environmental protection for my two years of alternate service, at the N.H. Forest Society and the Cal. Ecology Corps.

Ever since, I have worked towards ending environmental despoliation and saving local agriculture. I received a bachelor's degree in environmental conservation, followed by environmental activism, such as providing advice and advocacy under the banner of Common Ground, and resurrecting a defunct family agricultural implements business.

I pursued public policy initiatives, privileged to serve in the state legislature, on a state Food Policy Committee, the city council, the Concord Conservation Commission and a N.H. Constitutional Convention.

To bolster my environmental impact, I attended law school and worked solo as a general-practice lawyer in Concord for about three decades. Also, I enjoyed volunteering as a board member & treasurer of the Concord Food Coop and as a YMCA fitness instructor.

I have enjoyed playing music as long as I can remember, especially since picking up the guitar in the '60's, but the undisputed pinnacle of the many fortunate miracles in my life was meeting and falling in love with my longtime life partner and wife, Betsey.

The light of my spiritual life has been the basic concept of Unitarian Universalism, open to science and exploration, embracing both belief and uncertainty. And as to Concord's church, I appreciate its physical design that fosters contemplation of the natural environment, but most essential to me is our outgoing and caring congregation.

# January BIRTHDAY WISHES

**Happy birthday** to our Members, Friends, and their children, for whom we have birthdays in our church records. If you want to be included on future birthday lists, enter your birthday in your Breeze profile or email it to [heidi@concorduu.org](mailto:heidi@concorduu.org).

- 1 Franz Vail
- 2 Jane Lemeland
- 3 Anne Drewniak
- 4 Craig Whitson
- 6 Lisa Eberhart
- 8 Sara McNeil
- 8 Fiona Burlock
- 17 Linda Ashford
- 21 Nola Rocco
- 25 David Elberfeld
- 26 Cali Mahon
- 27 Dariel Thompson
- 28 Karen Cox
- 28 Beth Gabrielli
- 29 Scott Desmarais
- 30 Margaret Fletcher
- 31 Emma Fleischman



## Soul Matters Themes Coming Up

Jan | Living with Intention

Feb | Widening the Circle

Mar | Renewing Faith

Apr | Awakening

May | Nurturing Beauty

June | Celebrating Blessings



### Families & Friends Ministry Meet-up Living with Intention

**Sunday, January 2, 2022 from 2:00- 3:00 pm**

Families and friends are invited for activities related to our January theme of Living with Intention. There will be take-home activities for children and packets for parents/guardians to explore the theme of Opening to Joy in daily family life throughout the month.

Join Minister of Lifespan Faith Development Lyn Marshall for fun and connection with other families. (Although you do not have to have kids to join us - All are welcome!)

*Images from past walks/ hikes, and history tour.*



2nd Saturday  
**Brainstorm & Fellowship**

January 8, 2022

4 PM PST | 5 PM MST | 6 PM CST | 7 PM EST

Join us online on 2nd Saturdays of the month where we share highlights from the last ritual at home or with our CUUPS chapter, brainstorm ideas for planning next ritual, and get to know each other better.

We'll talk about tips for making online ritual more engaging:

We also be talking about the monthly book group for "Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism." Would you like to help facilitate a session or help make discussion prompts?

Register free at

*Transforming Ourselves*

**Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) 2nd Saturday**

**Brainstorm & Fellowship**

CUUPS is a national organization. [Click here](#) for more information about this group.

Join Cat R. on 2nd Saturdays to brainstorm for the next ritual and talk about chapter topics.

**On Jan 8, 2022 at 7 PM EST** we'll be talking about two things! First we'll cover tips to make online rituals more engaging. We also talk about the upcoming monthly book group for "Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism."

**Register at:** [tinyurl.com/Jan2022CUUPSfellowship](https://tinyurl.com/Jan2022CUUPSfellowship)



*Exploring Membership*

## Exploring Membership Group

If you've been attending in-person or via live stream for a couple of months (or a couple of years!) you might be ready to connect more deeply with the church by joining our next Exploring Membership Group.

Our next Exploring Membership Group **starts on January 16.**

This is a 4-session experience, with sessions on:

**January 16.....1-3 pm**

**January 23 .....1-3 pm**

**February 13.....1-3 pm**

**March 27.....1-3 pm**

In this group you will learn more about Unitarian Universalism and how it is expressed in our particular congregation, as well as the expectations, opportunities and benefits of membership. You'll also get to know other explorers in the group, and perhaps learn some things about yourself and your own spirituality.

If you choose to become a member after the sessions are concluded, the New Member Covenanting Ceremony will be on **April 3, during the Sunday service.**

**Please note:** You must attend all 4 sessions in order to become a member. If there are extenuating circumstances, please speak with Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger about a waiver of this requirement.

If you're ready to take that next step, here is the registration form: [uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/26353d29442598893](https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/26353d29442598893).

## Yarne From Afar 2022

### A Worldwide Remote Retreat

January 10-March 4, 2022

This is a unique opportunity to join the Monastic Community at Gampo Abby, as they enter their yearly deep retreat. Yarne from Afar participants are asked to commit to a daily 30-minute meditation practice. Lojong, or mind training, is a core practice in Tibetan Buddhism. The focus of this retreat will be training in the Lojong Slogans offering us the opportunity to generate compassion and resilience as we establish the habit of a daily meditation practice. This retreat is a free offering, with donations deeply welcome.

Registration for the Yarne retreat is over but Craig can send you the information to participate.

In support of this retreat, the Contemplative Practices Group at Concord UU will offer weekly gatherings via **zoom on Fridays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm, beginning Jan. 14th**. During this time, we will have a chance to meditate together and share our insights and experiences with this practice.

To sign up for the Contemplative Practices Support Group, UU Church of Concord, go to <https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/c3df43>

Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please contact either:

Janet Kelley-Vail: [janetkellyvail@gmail.com](mailto:janetkellyvail@gmail.com) / Tel: 603-520-4324 or;

Craig Whitson: [craig.listening@gmail.com](mailto:craig.listening@gmail.com) / Tel: 978-254-0415

## Annual New Years Silent Self-Guided Meditation Retreat

### Renew Your Resilience with a Gift to Yourself

January 8, 2022 from 9 am-4 pm | Zoom only

*“It is indeed a radical act of love just to sit down and be quiet for a time by yourself”* – Jon Kabat-Zinn

Please join us for an hour or all day to recharge, in community. All levels of experience are welcome. We will sit and walk our way through the day.

For more information, or to register: Please visit: [www.concorduu.org/lifespan-faith-development/contemplative-practices/](http://www.concorduu.org/lifespan-faith-development/contemplative-practices/)

Questions? Please email Betsy Black at [betsy.black333@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.black333@gmail.com).

*Co-leaders for the retreat,*

*Kim Gillis and Betsy Black*

P.S. If you are new to meditation and prefer a guided experience, please consider attending East Coast Mindfulness' retreat led by Margaret Fletcher on the same day at the same time. For more information, see: [www.eastcoastmindfulness.com/Retreats/2022\\_New\\_Year\\_New\\_Moment\\_Retreat/](http://www.eastcoastmindfulness.com/Retreats/2022_New_Year_New_Moment_Retreat/).



## **We are welcoming Afghans!**

The UUs have formed a Neighborhood Support Team with Temple Beth Jacob to welcome refugees (UUTBJ NST). We were so excited to use some of your donations to set up an apartment for one of the first Afghan families to arrive in Concord. Fran Philippe, Donna Odde, Kath Butcher, Cheryl Bourassa, Chris Graham, Laurie Regan, many folks from the Temple, and Julia Freeman Woolpert hauled furniture, filled the kitchen cabinets, made beds, plumped pillows, and washed windows. A huge shout-out to Chris for his help in assembling the beds and fixing some furniture. The finishing touch was a bouquet of flowers from Cheryl's garden for their kitchen table. Bevan Tulk, co-chair of the Team, was handling arrangements behind the scene. This mighty team accomplished all of this with one day's notice!

Since then, we have been helping them with grocery and clothing shopping; school enrollment; transportation to appointments; and the ins and outs of American apartment life. The girls are now enrolled at Rundlett Middle School in sixth- and eighth-grades, enjoying it and doing well. The dad arrived with very good English, but is in English classes at Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) and will be tutored privately, wanting to improve as quickly as he can for future employment. He is very social and an excellent cook and has been meeting members of the team at his apartment with tasty Afghan treats. We know that at some point, they will want to meet all the friendly UUs who have supported them with donations of goods and money. Continued support of gift cards from Target, Walmart, Market Basket or the Nepali store are still welcome. They can be mailed to Fran Philippe, 234 East Side Dr. Concord 03301

Meanwhile we have also offered assistance to another Afghan family by purchasing beds, and to a Burundian family who also arrived quickly. Our donations were plentiful and helped out all three families. Thank you all for everything you do!

Julia Freeman-Wolpert and Fran Philippe, UUFOR Committee Members



Concord UUs celebrated Yalda Night with our new Afghan friends. We are loving getting to know our family, learning so much about Afghan culture, and eating lots of delicious Afghan food!



## Feedback & Ideas Forum Multi-platform meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2022

5:30-6:30 pm

Join the ministers and staff in an informal setting where you can share your concerns, compliments, and constructive criticism...anything church-related that is on your mind.

## Board of Trustees (BOT) Highlights

*Submitted by Jim Schlosser, Secretary*

### November

- Discussed our participation in the Board/OLT Phone-a-thon
- Discussed the role of the Board in our Investment Policy
- Drafted a new Ends Statement

### December

- Discussed our participation in the Board/OLT Phone-a-thon
- Approved a new Ends Statement and discussed an approach to develop a communications plan for the Ends Statement.
- Heard Financial reports for the 1st Quarter.

# JANUARY

## Special & Ongoing Events

Please see our calendar online for the most up-to-date listing of meetings, events, and happening:  
Be sure to check out our NEW website calendar by [clicking here at concorduu.org/calendar!](https://concorduu.org/calendar)

Links are available through private emails, through eBulletin, and Parish Notes.

- Sat, Jan 1 @ 1 pm | New Years Games (inside) & Chocolates (outside) | Spread out through building.  
Sun, Jan 2 @ 2 pm | Family & Friends Meet-up "Living with Intention"  
Fri, Jan 7 @ 1 pm | Monthly Games (inside) & Chocolates (outside)  
Sat, Jan 8 from 9 am-4 pm | [Annual New Years Silent Self-Guided Meditation Retreat](#) | [Zoom](#)  
Sun, Jan 9 @ 2:30 pm | New Years Day Hike & Bonfire  
Sun, Jan 9 @ 7 pm | Taizé Service | Sanctuary & Live Streaming  
Sun, Jan 16 @ 1 pm | Exploring Membership Group #1  
Sun, Jan 23 @ 1 pm | Exploring Membership Group #2  
Thu, Jan 27 @ 5:30 pm | [Feedback & Ideas Forum Multi-platform Meeting](#)

### ONGOING EVENTS

- Mondays @ 6 pm | Kripalu Yoga | Meditation | YogaMeds | **NOTE: Zoom**  
Mondays @ 6 pm | LGBTQ+ AA mtg Come As You Are\* | **NOTE: Fellowship Hall**  
1st Tuesdays @ 7 pm | UU Friends of Refugees (UUFOR) Committee Mtg | **NOTE: Zoom**  
2nd Tuesdays @ 1 pm | Chronic Pain Support Group\* | **NOTE: Online**  
1st Wednesdays @ 3 pm | Friendly Kitchen Prep & Serve Day  
Thursdays @ 7 pm | Choir | **NOTE: Zoom & In-person**  
1st Thursdays @ 7 pm | Showing Up for Racial Justice | **NOTE: Online\***  
Fridays @ 7 pm | Youth Group  
3rd Fridays @ 4 pm | Insight Meditation Sangha | **NOTE: Zoom**  
2nd Saturdays @ 4 pm | Renaissance New England\* | **NOTE: Zoom**  
Sundays @ 5 pm | Augustine Fellowship\* | **NOTE: Zoom**  
4th Sundays @ 7 pm | Caring for Aging Loved Ones | **NOTE: Zoom**

\*Support or special interest groups that meet at the UU, Zoom, or hybrid during COVID and who are not affiliated with the church, but open to anyone interested in attending.



## Office Hours

**Regular Hours (Sept-Mid June)**  
Tues, Weds, Thurs, and Fri. | 10 am - 3 pm

## Interfaith Holidays/Rituals

*Click on each name to learn more about:*

- [Twelfth Night \(Christian\) - Jan. 5](#)
- [Epiphany \(Christian\) - Jan. 6](#)
- [World Religion Day \(Baha'i\) - Jan. 16, 2022](#)
- [Tu BiShevat \(Jewish\) - Jan. 16 -17, 2022](#)

## Unitarian Universalist History

- [Thirty Days of Love - Side with Love Campaign - Jan.15 - Feb.14](#)
- [Millard Fillmore's Birthday - Jan. 7, 1800 \(Unitarian President; on his contradictions here\)](#)
- [Joseph Tuckerman's Birthday - Jan. 18 \(1778\)](#)

## Staff

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

### Minister of Lifespan Faith Development

Rev. Lyn Marshall  
568-8084 (cell)      lyn@concorduu.org

### Dir. of Membership & Administration

| Lea Smith  
224-0291 x4      lea@concorduu.org

### Office Administrator

| Heidi Page  
**NEW ext.** 224-0291 x1      heidi@concorduu.org

### Accompanist

| Calvin Herst  
calvin@concorduu.org

### Choir Director

| Alex Hunton  
alex@concorduu.org

### A/V Operations Assistant

| Noah Leuchtenberger  
**Sexton** | Robert Baker  
robert@concorduu.org

## Officers

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

## Board of Trustees

**Chair** | Ann Hoey  
**Vice-Chair** | Kelly Mahony  
**Secretary** | Jim Schlosser  
Anne Drewniak  
Roger Ballou  
Craig Whitson



## Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

274 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301-2551

603-224-0291

office@concorduu.org

www.concorduu.org

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## 30 Days of Love 2022 <https://sidewithlove.org/30-days-of-love-2022>

### Monday, January 17 - Monday, February 14

30 Days of Love is our annual celebration that runs approximately from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January through Valentine's Day in February. It is an opportunity to collectively nurture our spirits, deepen our understanding, and take action on our values for collective liberation.

In 2022, 30 Days of Love will focus on Side With Love's four intersectional justice priorities, with opportunities each week for communities and people of all ages to ground, grow, and act together for justice.

#### WHAT WILL 30 DAYS OF LOVE 2022 BE LIKE?

Each week, we will share a 'playlist' or 'menu' of activities for individuals to interact with, connected with our weekly theme. We will have a full playlist of offerings each week for multigenerational families/communities, as well as many activities for general adult audiences. Each week will include activities in the categories of Read, Watch, Act, Listen, and Worship.

**Week One:** January 17 - 23 – Reproductive, Gender, & LGBTQIA+ Justice

**Week Two:** January 24 - 30 – Democracy & Voting Rights

**Week Three:** January 31 - February 6 – Decriminalization & Racial Justice

**Week Four:** February 7 - 14 – Climate Justice

#### SAVE THE DATE – SIDE WITH LOVE SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 13!

All Unitarian Universalist congregations are invited to participate in this annual tradition! This year, Side With Love will offer a free-use worship service featuring stirring music, deep-hearted reflection, and moving testimonies from a range of UU leaders. The service will be available for use as a whole, or as individual videos for your selected use. A detailed order of service including worship leaders and elements will be available here on Monday, January 30; all videos will be available for access/download by end of day on Friday, February 5. **See our Calendar of Live Events by [click here!](#)** — many require pre-registration.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) for our livestreams, discussion posts, and other updates!