

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Concord

Why My Heart Is Here

SUBMITTED BY BIANCA RIVERA-BERRY



Why is my heart here? Easy. **Village.** Since joining the UU I have repeated this word countless times: my mantra, my purpose, my prayer. It's the people who keep me tethered. These caring relationships, the love shared between us, the welcoming of strangers are where I find the sacred.

Before the UU, I felt out of place in the world, lonely and unsure where I fit in. When I became pregnant with my daughter, I knew I wanted more for my children and for myself. I first entered the UU in search of community, but stayed because it became my family.

This sense of family has really shown up for me. When I had a difficult pregnancy, a circle of women from the church visited me in my home for a day of nurturing me as a mother, as opposed to the baby. When I am absent for a while, people notice and reach out, reminding me of my belonging. When I am overwhelmed, someone offers a helping hand, a moment of watching the children, or just good company. I've built friendships while washing dishes in the church kitchen, gained perspective listening to stories from elders, and even found chosen family who have become my youngest child's godparents. This community doesn't just talk compassion; it practices it in ways that generate lasting bonds.

This village also shapes my family. Each week, my infant is passed lovingly from one set of arms to another, giving me a bit of freedom to socialize and reset. My children see their regular and consistent friend group through the kids' programs. My seven-year-old daughter walks hand in hand with elders, deep in conversation about mythology, ecology, or history, soaking up their wisdom. My husband, initially reluctant to join a church, now signs us up for more than our schedule...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Dec Worship Services
PAGE 02-03

Congregant Engagement
Team
PAGE 05

NEW Laughter Yoga
PAGE 06

Games & Chocolate Plus!
PAGE 07

Season of Giving
PAGE 08-09

Contemplative Practices
PAGE 10

Holiday Open Mic
PAGE 11

Senior Singles Social Group
PAGE 12

Gifts of Service
PAGE 14

Art Talks
PAGE 15

Exploring Membership
PAGE 16

...and much more



WORSHIP

Sunday Worship is at 10 am

IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAM AT WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG/LIVE

12/7/2025 “Hope Beyond Expectations” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Expectations help us plan, motivate, anticipate. They give structure to our days and meaning to our striving. Yet the same structures that steady us can also confine us. Expectations—our own or those placed on us—can quietly narrow our imagination, shrink our sense of possibility, or convince us that hope lives only on one particular path, one particular outcome, one particular version of ourselves. Hope becomes conditional. It has to “work out.” It has to look a certain way. It becomes a transaction rather than a liberation. But hope, real hope, is far more spacious than our expectations.

12/14/2025 “Rallying Hope” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Hope is often described as a feeling inside an individual heart—but hope, at its deepest and most transformative, is a communal force. Something that lives between us, not only within us. Something we generate and sustain together. In times of discouragement, it can be hard to kindle hope alone. But when we step into community—into circles of song, shared stories, collective purpose—we find that hope behaves differently. It grows. It multiplies. It becomes something larger than the sum of our individual spirits.

12/21/2025 “Dark to Light” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

Darkness is not the enemy of hope. It is the place where hope goes to gather strength. Yet we live in a world that urges us to avoid the darkness and move toward the light as quickly as possible. But spiritually and emotionally, darkness is not always a problem to be solved. Often, darkness is a necessary part of our human journey. When daylight returns in winter, the earth doesn’t rush. It turns degree by degree. And then, before we realize it, the morning arrives earlier, and the shadows shorten. Our inner seasons move in much the same way.

12/21/2025 - 7 pm “Winter Solstice/Yule Celebration” Earth Centered Spirituality Group

Celebrate our longest night of the year, and the coming return of our Sun’s warmth and light to our hemisphere, at our Winter Solstice/Yule Celebration. This family-friendly event, put on by the Earth-Centered Spirituality Group, will involve singing, dancing, and the mystical Stag Dance, followed by social time with light snacks. Childcare available in our Rainbow Room.



12/24/2025 - 5 pm “Christmas Eve Carols, Candles & Stories” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

A service for all ages full of tradition, music, candle lighting, and a no-rehearsal pageant with animals, angels, kings and more. If your child would like to participate, please let Michael know.

12/24/2025 - 9 pm “Christmas Eve Music & Reflection” Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

A contemplative service of music, readings, carols and reflections. May peace come to our hearts and the world.

12/28/2025 “Many are the ways to Hope” Rev. Jim Curley

The end of the year is upon us, but we are still in the holiday season – a season that can be filled with Joy and Hope for the New Year. As an Interfaith Minister, Rev. Jim Curley will explore the many ways to Hope from a variety of faith traditions. And of course, there will be joyous holiday singing.

**Our theme for
December is
“Choosing Hope.”**

Christmas Eve Dream Team

KATH BUTCHER, CHRISTMAS LOGISTICS TEAM LEADER

Please join my team on December 24th! We have a service at 5 pm and 9 pm. I have a job for everyone!

I am currently looking for people that can help days before or after the event to prep and then clean up the candles.

Can you assist with giving someone a ride to the service or a ride home?

Are you available to help set up early afternoon on the 24th?

Can you be an usher or a greeter at either or both services?

Can you help with lighting?

Can you help with clean up at the end of the night?

Please contact me (Kath Butcher) through office@concorduu.org, or look me up in Breeze, if you would like to be on my dream team! We will have fun!

As a bonus there is a dinner at 6:15 pm that you are welcome to join.



Why My Heart Is Here

BY BIANCA RIVERA-BERRY | CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

...can accommodate and lists off the men at church who have inspired him to be a better man himself. My five-year-old son insists on setting tables with Chris, an adult congregant who has quietly become one of his heroes. Chris never treats him like a child underfoot; rather, he treats him like a helper and a friend. In a world where raising boys often feels daunting, I am profoundly grateful for this example.

Between all of us, we are at the church 4-6 days a week! It is our second home, where we love to be. In our congregation, my children learn through watching how to serve with kindness, how to listen, and how to show up for others. My husband and I are also taught by example the same grace and generosity we wish to instill in our children. That is what a village should be about. My heart is here because this is what the world needs more of: elders who provide loving guidance, peers who nurture together, and a village where every person, young or old, knows they belong.



MAKING CONNECTIONS



How We in the Congregant Engagement Team are Engaging with You

SUBMITTED BY RENEE WEST

You—yes, you—are so important! Whether you are a newcomer, someone who’s been attending for a while but still finding your way, or a long-timer looking to “reach out to the new,” you are indeed so important, and we welcome and value your presence.

The Congregant Engagement Team (CET), has been meeting regularly since 2024 to brainstorm and implement ways to help you feel like this is a community that invites, includes, and excites you. Who are the folks in the CET? Well, we’re the ones in this photo! Hi! We are Renee West, Susan Casey, Krista Robichaud, Lorraine Ellis, Jeff Abbe, and Lea Smith (along with Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger.) Since our first meeting, we’ve been working on creative and impactful ways of engaging with you, from when you walk in to when you walk out, as well as after that.

If you’re a newcomer, we’ve been creating a whole-community approach to welcoming you. In October 2024 we held a workshop to raise awareness of how greeters and ushers can be more sensitive to the varying needs of our visitors, making you feel valued and included right from the start. This September, we held a Spiritual Hospitality Workshop, where we discussed how everyone in this community can share in the joyful, spiritual practice of welcoming you.

If you’re part of an Exploring Membership group, you’ll have someone who serves as a guide for your group, creating ways to connect with each other both in the group and as a group. Your guide can also help connect you with nice folks throughout the church and to church activities that spark your interest.

If you’ve been attending for a while, you might long to get involved in ways that are meaningful to you or help with your spiritual practice. We offer an Engagement Fair every year that showcases all that we’re doing. Last February we held an event after the service where we gathered in small groups around the Sanctuary to make connections between our individual passions and our church programs. We created the “Why My Heart is Here” articles in Parish Notes to help you gain deeper knowledge about the people in the church and the ways they’re involved.

Whether we’re just meeting or we’re old friends, the CET wants to hear your ideas for creating and sustaining our connection or the connection you have with others. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of us, because just like yourself, your ideas are important!

FAITH AND FUN

Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace Saturday, December 13th, 9am -11am

Join us on the 2nd Saturday of the month for a Pancake Breakfast and a service project! This year, each month we are learning about a different way our congregation serves the community. After a breakfast of delicious pancakes cooked by our dedicated volunteers, Mike and Scott, the young and the young at heart will participate in a service project to bring our learning full circle. Bring your children and grandchildren, or just bring yourself. All are welcome!

Laughter Yoga

SUBMITTED BY BETSY KENNEDY

It is with great joy and laughter that I, Grandma Ha Ha (aka Betsy K), announce the start of Laughter Yoga at the UU Church of Concord! Come be a part of a world peace movement, started in India in 1995 and has spread to over 120 countries. Laughter also has so much serious medical research showing its health benefits. Come laugh and learn! No mats or experience needed. If you can breathe and you are conscious, you can do it! Don't take my word for it.

"Laughter is a force for democracy." - John Cleese, actor, comedian

"We don't laugh because we're happy, we are happy because we laugh."

- William James, psychologist

"My goodness, if you bottled the health benefits of laughter all up in a pill, you'd need FDA approval!"

- Dr Lee Berk, Gelotologist*

OH! You want to know when? Join me in the chapel EVERY first and third Tuesday of the month, starting December 2, at 5pm for 55 minutes of the most fun exercise ever. In fact, did you know that laughter is the only exercise you can fake and still get all the health benefits?

But wait! There's more! I will also be leading Laughter Yoga during the Sunday second hour on December 14! I can't wait to see and hear you!



*A gelotologist is a person who studies laughter!

FAITH AND FUN

New Year's Day Games & Chocolate

Thursday, January 1
at 1 pm

It has become a delightful tradition to gather at church for a special New Year's Day edition of Games & Chocolate. Start the new year off having fun with old friends and making new ones. Bring something chocolate to share, a favorite board game, or just come!

Games and Chocolate Friday Dec 5 at 6:30 pm

SUBMITTED BY LEA SMITH

Last month we had a great turnout at G&C as we remembered our dear friend Loren Hill. Let's keep the momentum going, as Loren would have wanted. Bring some treats to share, and meet old and new friends for board games in Fellowship Hall.



Dungeons & Dragons 101 Friday Dec 5 | 6 to 8:30 pm

SUBMITTED BY SABRINA STANWOOD

Learn about playing the game Dungeons & Dragons, different aspects about the game, and discuss building a character. Feel free to bring D&D game playing dice if you have them. Note, a D&D game will not be played. We'll gather in the Chapel. Childcare in the Rainbow room is available. For childcare, please contact Dory dory@concorduu.org by Sunday, Nov. 30. Contact Sabrina Stanwood or Leah Powers with questions.

SEASON OF GIVING

Caroling and Cookies with the Homeless

SUBMITTED BY FRAN PHILIPPE



We continue our tradition of caroling with the homeless this month, on Friday evening, December 19th. We'll meet at church at 5:30. Bring cookies to share at each location. We'll then go to the Friends Family Shelter for 6:00 where we'll bring cookies for the children to decorate, then to McKenna house at 6:45 and end at the Cold Weather Shelter at 7:30.

Due to limited space at each location, we're going to limit the group size to 10 (8 + Michael and me.) Please sign up with Fran Philippe (Breeze email address) - first come - first 'sing.'

Giving Tree

This year's giving tree will support refugee and immigrant families in the Concord community. Watch for the tree in the parlor after Thanksgiving. Our UU Friends of Refugees will organize this project.



SEASON OF GIVING

Christmas Eve Community Dinner

Join your church family for an informal dinner at 6:15 pm on Christmas Eve (between our two church services.) This began many years ago as an opportunity for those without family nearby to enjoy a holiday meal in community. These days, we celebrate that we are ALL family and ALL are welcome! The meal is family style, and all are expected to help set up and clean up as you are able. The menu will probably be store-bought lasagna, although we are open to fresh ideas from anyone who wants to don their chef's cap! Might this be the gift you give to your church family this holiday? If you can prepare the main meal or dessert, email office@concorduu.org.



Watch out for scams

Scammers prey on the generosity of our congregants by posing as a church leader, asking you to send them cash or gift cards electronically, or to give them contact info for other congregants. The only way to donate electronically to Concord UU is at concorduu.org/get-involved/donate or via Breeze. **Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger will never contact you by email to ask you to donate gift cards.** For this reason, we are no longer publishing the personal emails and phone numbers of church leaders in Parish Notes. You'll need to look them up in our Breeze directory, or email office@concorduu.org. If you need a Breeze account, email breeze@concorduu.org.

The joy of
brightening
other lives
becomes for
us the magic
of the
holidays.

W. C. JONES



CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

New Year Silent Retreat

Opening to
Possibilities:
Expect the
Unexpected

Saturday, Jan. 3
from 9am to Noon

Filling the Well

December Second Hour Sessions
offered by the Contemplative Practices Group

SUBMITTED BY JEANNE ANN WHITTINGTON

The late poet Raymond Carver, in one of his last poems, answered the question “What did you want from this life?” with the words: “To feel myself beloved on the earth.” This experience—of being seen, cared for and beloved—is yearned for by humans because from the moment we are born, it is the experience that allows us to feel deeply safe, and also to feel nourished and empowered to become and express ourselves, fully.

The psychologist Daniel P. Brown developed a meditation practice which, drawing on the Tibetan tradition of visualization practices, allows the practitioner to imaginatively experience perfect care. (Our bodies, minds and hearts mostly don’t recognize the difference between imagination and reality, as you may have noticed.) We can imaginatively, but truly, fill our inner well with the experience of such sensitive and wholehearted care that when we open our eyes, we have come to know a new way of feeling in ourselves. This allows a new way of seeing the world and what is possible for us, as beings and actors in the world. And as we begin to act based on these new views, we have new experiences that can gradually replace the old views and expectations—this is where the real magic happens.

During the Second Hour period on the two Sundays in December (Dec. 14 and 21), the Contemplative Practice group will offer an introduction to this practice, known as the Ideal Parent Figure Protocol. Guided by Jeanne Ann Whittington, this is one of the practices that was offered in the “Kindness Clinic” during the September half-day retreat. All are welcome; no experience necessary. Think of it as a gift to give yourself during the holiday season!



KJ Holiday Open Mic | Saturday, Dec 13 from 7 to 9 pm

**Kimball Jenkins' Carriage House
brought to you by the Blue Moon Music House**

The Kimball Jenkins Holiday Open Mic is a free, all-ages event scheduled for Saturday, December 13, from 7–9pm in the Carriage House at Kimball Jenkins School of Art, 266 N. Main St., Concord, NH 03301. The evening features holiday music, a sing-along, and open mic performances, coordinated by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord.

- ★ Sign-up is available both in advance and at the door (6:30) for those wishing to perform. To sign up in advance, [click here](#).
- ★ Free treats and drinks will be provided for attendees to share.
- ★ Free parking is available in front of Kimball Jenkins (no parking in the back campus parking lot please!)

This event is part of the broader Holidays at the Estate celebration at Kimball Jenkins, which runs from November 29 to December 19, 2025, and features a range of holiday-themed activities, exhibitions, performances, and marketplaces for all ages. For more information please visit their website www.kimballjenkins.com/holidays-at-the-estate

For those interested in ongoing open mic opportunities, we also host a monthly "Blue Moon Music House" right here at Concord UU. For more information visit concorduu.org/blue-moon





Senior Singles Social Group

SUBMITTED BY MARTHA MAE EMERSON

Seasonal change is in the air! Time to enjoy a winter's walk, pausing to breathe in the crisp chill in the air, the return to cozying up inside and savoring the joys and warmth of companionship, or snuggling up with a blanket and a book. The special energy of the holidays is sweeping in, with the hustle and bustle of preparations, the wonderful aromas of evergreens and holiday cooking, the inspiration and beauty of holiday music, and sharing special holiday traditions with family and friends. May we all join in the generous spirit of this time of year and celebrate the gifts of existence on this most extraordinary planet earth. Happy holidays, folks, with wishes for Peace and Joy!

The Senior Singles Social Group is for all single UUs, ages 55+. To learn more about us, please join us at one of our meetings or activities and decide if the SSSG is right for you. **If you join the SSSG, you will receive our SSSG Bi-Weekly Update sent out every other Sunday night highlighting changing and new activities, as well as reminders of recurring meetings and activities.** To be added to our email list, email office@concorduu.org. If you are shy about jumping in both feet at once, ask the office staff to put you in contact with one of our members to answer questions and chat about our group.

SSSG December Calendar

Weekly Stay Active Group, every Wednesday. For times and places, check our Bi-Weekly Update.

*****Dec. 3 | 3pm | Holiday Party Yankee Swap at Ugo's house in Bow*****

RSVP info and address in upcoming Bi-Weekly Update. Pot luck holiday snacks. BYOB. Spending limit for the Yankee Swap gifts around \$15. No gift guidelines - re-gift, homemade, silly, vintage, whatever!

Dec. 10 | 2pm | Stay Active with exercising your memory! Learn how to make beautiful little origami paper boxes (48 folds! See photo bottom right.) Materials provided. At Martha Mae's house

Dec. 17 | 2 PM | Make a holiday gift or decoration using a variety of materials - birch bark, greens, berries, etc. - exercise your creative muscles! (Never collect birch bark from a living tree!) At Martha Mae's house

Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Day | no planned event

Dec. 31 | Last walk towards 2026! Weather permitting.

We may do some pop up walks this month as weather allows. We are discovering some new places which, if we ever get enough snow, have potential for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, sledding, building snow people.

SSSG Monthly Social Hour, 2nd Friday each month at 1:30

When: Fri., Dec. 12, 1:30

Where: Abenaki Room, UU Church

SSSG Monthly Meeting, 4th Sunday every month at 1:30

When: Sun., Dec. 28, 1:30

Where: Abenaki Room, UU Church





Life Passages

We celebrate the marriage of Erin Waters and Jarred Swiontek, who wed in our Sanctuary on October 18, 2025. Erin grew up in our church, and is the daughter of our members Marjorie Waters and Don Brueggeman.

Are you celebrating an important milestone in your life such as retirement, marriage, birth of a grandchild, or a big move to a new home? Share your news with your church community in our Life Passages column by sending it to parishnotes@concorduu.org.

Registration for the OWL program for 7-9th graders ends December 14th

If you know of a 7th, 8th or 9th grader who would benefit from open, honest, progressive, and factual information about sex, identity, relationships, media literacy, consent, and more, please register your student at [this link](#) or email Dory for more information. Preregistration is required for the OWL program.

“Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities.” So reads UUA.org, the official website of the Unitarian Universalist Association, in reference to the 25 year strong OWL program.

Here at Concord UU, we are indeed proud to continue the legacy and work of the UUA’s Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program by offering this incredible and important program for 7th-9th graders in our community.

OWL is offered every other year at Concord UU, and will not run again until 2028! **This upcoming cohort will begin on Sunday, January 4th, 2026** and run each Sunday* for 13 sessions, with breaks for Easter Sunday and school vacation weeks.

*There will be one Friday/Saturday double session and sleepover at the church. Contact Dory for a full schedule breakdown.

Our trained facilitators and volunteer team look forward to serving you and your children.

GIFTS OF SERVICE

Seeking Luncheon Hosts

SUBMITTED BY ANNA MORRISON

Are you part of a group within the church community? Consider hosting a community luncheon! Hosts provide lunch on 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month, after our Second Hour offerings. Food can be store-bought, homemade, or a combination; community lunches are a great way to bring the congregation together - and we promise you'll have help with the dishes! To sign up or for more information, please see Irene Hanslin or Anna Morrison, look them up in Breeze, or email them through office@concorduu.org.



THANK YOU TO THE SPRING 2025
EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP GROUP FOR
HOSTING A COMMUNITY LUNCH!

Circle of Life Deborah Bridges Cooper

With sadness, we share that our beloved congregant Deborah Bridges Cooper passed away on November 2, 2025. Deb joined the church in 2020, and quickly became involved in many ways, including as a Worship Associate, Christmas Eve Team Leader, and member of UU Friends of Refugees Steering Committee and UUFOR Circle 17. You can read her obituary at www.connorhealy.com/obituary/deborah-cooper



Ushers Needed

SUBMITTED BY ANN HOEY

Ushers needed! Do you attend most Sunday services? Would you like an easy way to volunteer? Please consider adding your name to the list of people who usher at Sunday morning services. The duties are pretty simple: you, along with your fellow usher, arrive about 25 minutes before the service to light candles, greet people entering the sanctuary, and distribute orders of service. During the service, you count attendees and help pass the collection baskets. After the service, you count up the money collected, complete some paperwork and hand all the money and slips to the office (a task that takes less than ten minutes.) **If we have a good number of ushers, you will only have to help out about once a month.** We really need some more volunteer ushers! If you can help, please email Ann Hoey by looking her up in Breeze, or reach out to her through the church office.

UU Art Talks from Home

Exploring Great Artists Together

SUBMITTED BY ROGER BALLOU

Many at Concord UU appreciate great paintings and the artists who created them. Here's an opportunity to connect with like-minded UU folks during our long winter months.

Concord UU member Roger Ballou will facilitate on Zoom a series of explorations of great artists from various time periods in art history. Roger will use Zoom to show photos of the artist, brief biographical information, and some examples from the artist's oeuvre.



For this winter's series, our focus during the art talks will be on artists whose work will be on display this winter at the Addison Gallery of American Art in Andover, Massachusetts, including John Leslie Breck, Robert Henri, Carmen Herrera, George Luks, Theodore Robinson, Leon Polk Smith, and John Henry Twachtman.

Our final event on March 11 will be a UU Art Trip to the Addison to see the many artists we studied. We will make an enjoyable day of it -- coffee stop together on the way to the museum, tour the Addison galleries, lunch as a group, and a return to Concord by midafternoon.

Wednesday mornings, 10:00-11:00 AM, on Zoom

January 7 | Out from the Shadows: Five Boston Women Artists in the Year 1900

January 21 | Cos Cob Art Colony: American Impressionism on the Connecticut Shore

February 4 | John Leslie Breck: An American Plein Air Painter

February 18 | Robert Henri: Artist, Teacher, and Writer

March 4 | Carmen Herrera and Leon Polk Smith: Culture and Modernism in the New York Art World

March 11 | UU Art Trip to the Addison Gallery of American Art

To register for UU Art Talks from Home, go to:

<https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/UUArtTalksfromHome2026>

Once registered, you can attend one session, all sessions, or any that you choose. Starting in December, Roger will provide email updates to our group to get us ready for our art explorations including online access instructions using Zoom. Questions about registering for UU Art Talks from Home should be directed to Lea in the church office at lea@concorduu.org.

(The photo at the top right is a self-portrait by artist Gretchen Rogers. It hangs at the MFA Boston. We will look at Gretchen Rogers's life and works during the art talk on January 7.)



Exploring Membership

Are you wondering what it means to be a “Member” of the UU Church of Concord?

The dates for the next Exploring Membership Group are 6 pm on Wednesdays:

January 21

February 4

March 25

April 1

After attending all four sessions, if you decide membership is right for you, you will sign the membership book on Apr 12.

Email Lea Smith
lea@concorduu.org for more info.



Covenant Group Open Enrollment January 1 to 18, 2026

Covenant groups are groups of ten to twelve people who meet monthly for a check-in and facilitated discussion of a topic of interest. These groups allow our members and friends to develop deeper relationships with people and to form circles of care for mutual celebration and support in times of struggle. Many of our groups explore the monthly worship theme in their meetings. Participants are encouraged to make this a high-priority commitment of at least one year. Meetings last between 90 minutes and two hours.

Why join a Covenant Group?

Regular monthly participation allows members to develop trust, mutual respect, and deep connection while supporting your own spiritual discernment. Each group develops its own covenant, or set of promises, that they make to one another. Many groups designate one person as the regular facilitator and some share that responsibility among their members. Groups are encouraged to work together on at least one service project each year.

Join us for a Sample Covenant Group after the Worship Service on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 11:45am.

Covenant Group open enrollment will begin on January 1. Watch your eBulletin and January Parish Notes for this once-a-year opportunity to join a Covenant Group.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Check out our online calendar for the most up-to-date events:
www.concorduu.org/calendar

Dec 5 | Fri | Dungeons & Dragons 101 @ 6 pm
Dec 6 | Sat | Poetic Eddas Reading Group @ 2 pm
Dec 7 | Sun | Exploring Membership Class #4 @ 1 pm
Dec 7 to 14 | Family Promise Host Week
Dec 13 | Sat | Holiday Open Mic at Kimball Jenkins @ 7 pm
Dec 14 | Sun | New Member Covenanting
 Laughter Yoga @ 11:30 am
 OWL Parent Orientation Session @ 4 pm
Dec 19 | Fri | Caroling with the Homeless @ 5:30 pm
Dec 21 | Sun | Winter Solstice/Yule Ritual @ 7 pm
Dec 24 | Wed | Christmas Eve Worship Services @ 5 pm and 9 pm
 Christmas Eve Community Dinner @ 6:15 pm
Dec 25 to Jan 1 | Office Closed for Holiday Week
Jan 1 to 18 | Covenant Group Open Enrollment
Jan 1 | Thu | New Year's Day Games and Chocolate @ 1 pm
Jan 3 | Sat | New Years Silent Retreat 9 am to 12 pm
 New Years Retreat Luncheon @ 12 pm
Jan 4 | Sun | Family Meet & Greet Breakfast @ 9 am
 Covenant Group for All @ 11:45 am
 OWL begins @ 4 pm

**Tuesday's Welcome Table
will be cancelled on Dec
23 and 30 due to the
holidays.**

Deadline for 2025 Donations is Dec. 31

If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation for tax year 2025, it must be RECEIVED or POSTMARKED no later than Dec 31. The church office will be closed the week between Christmas and the New Year, so if you are running late you'll want to have your donation postmarked by Dec 31 rather than drop it off. You can also drop it in the offering basket on December 28. Make sure you note on the memo line the purpose of your donation (pledge 2025-26, holiday gift, etc.) You can also give online at concorduu.org/get-involved/donate/

RECURRING EVENTS

Special Worship Services

Taize at Concord UU - every 1st Sunday @ 7pm, October through April

UU Worship at Havenwood - every 4th Thursday @ 1pm **canceled for December**

Earth Centered Spirituality Rituals - on or near solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days

Recurring Faith Exploration Events

Sermon Dialogue - 1st, 4th & 5th Sundays at 11:45am

Second Hour Adult Programs - 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 11:30am

Young Explorers Program - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays @ 10am, September 14 through May

Youth Group - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Fridays @ 7pm (new youth contact Michael before attending)

Elder Circles of Healing & Wholeness - 2nd Fridays @ 10:30am, October through May

Covenant Groups - monthly small group ministry **open enrollment in January**

Power of Myth Viewing and Discussion - 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30pm, October through March

Recurring Contemplative Events

Daily Silent Morning Meditation - Daily @ 7am Zoom Only

Thursday Morning Meditation Group - Thursdays @ 7am Zoom Only non-church link

UU Yoga - 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays @ 6:30pm, Sept through May

Mindfulness Practice Group - 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 6:30pm, Sept through May

Recurring Social, Family, & Fellowship Events

Community Lunch - 2nd and 3rd Sundays @ 12:30pm, September through May

Tuesday's Welcome Table - Tuesdays @ 6pm **canceled Dec 23 and 30**

Games and Chocolate - 1st Fridays @ 6:30pm

Art & Appetizers - 2nd Fridays @ 6pm

Pancakes, Play & Planting Peace - 2nd Saturdays @ 9am

Knitting Group - 2nd Saturdays @ 10am

Family Covenant Group - 3rd Fridays @ 6pm (please contact organizers before attending)

Neurospicy Humans Group - 3rd Saturdays @ 6pm

Recurring Musical Events

Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays, 7pm to 8:30pm

Choir Warm Up - Sundays when choir is singing @ 9am

Drum Circle - 3rd Sundays @ 7pm

Blue Moon Music House - 2nd Tuesdays @ 7pm

Recurring Outreach Events

Friendly Kitchen prep and serve day - 1st Wednesdays @ 3pm

Recurring Healing & Helping Events

American Sign Language Practice Group - Sundays at 8:30 am

Concord Area Support Group for People with Parkinson's and their Care Partners - 1st Tuesdays @ 10am

Laughter Yoga - Tuesdays @ 5pm **(Starting Dec 2)**

* PFLAG Support Group - 3rd Sundays @ 3pm

* Renaissance NE Transgender Group - 2nd Saturdays @ 3pm every other month (contact before attending)

* public support groups that meet at the church but are not church programs.



Parish Notes Deadline

January issue: December 21

Submit to parishnotes@concorduu.org by 2pm
on the day of the deadline.

Officers

Treasurer | vacant

Custodian of Investments | Jack Wakelin

Assistant Treasurers | Lorraine Ellis, Ann West

Moderator | Barbara Keshen

Clerk | Ann Hoey

Board of Trustees

Chair | Craig Whitson

Vice-Chair | Susi Nord

Secretary | Anne Meyers

Larry Davis

Jim Curley

Arthoen Wolf

Staff

Senior Minister & Choir Director

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

603-715-7557 (cell)

michael@concorduu.org

Dir. of Membership & Administration

Lea Smith

603-224-0291 ext 3# | lea@concorduu.org

Church Administrator

Becky Bosse

603-224-0291 ext 1# | becky@concorduu.org

Accompanist | Heather Maconaghy

heather@concorduu.org

Family Engagement Coordinator

Dory LeCount | dory@concorduu.org

Young Explorers Guides

Beth Draper & Amir Robertson

Childcare Providers

Bayshay Bruss & Riley Carr

Youth Group Assistant

Amir Robertson

Custodian | Melissa Bennett

Sexton | Russell Perseveres

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CONCORD
274 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD, NH 03301-2551

OFFICE@CONCORDUU.ORG
WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG
603-224-0291

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

