

# PARISH NOTES

Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord

FEBRUARY 2026



Mindfulness Based  
Stress Reduction

PAGE 03

Love-in-Action

PAGE 06

New Refugee Circle

PAGE 07

Report from Minnesota

PAGE 07

Pancakes, Play &  
Planting Peace

PAGE 08

Auction for Adults & Kids

PAGE 10

Octagon Dinners

PAGE 11

Dungeons & Dragons

PAGE 13

Wayside Pulpit

PAGE 14



## Minister's Musings: Insights from our 2025 Ends Survey

BY REV. MICHAEL LEUCHTENBERGER

Thank you for the phenomenal response rate to our 2025 Ministry / Ends Survey.

### Demographics

We received 199 responses from members (80%), friends (13.5%) and visitors (6.5%). More than half of our members responded! And way to go elders! Those 75 years or older made up a quarter of respondents, with 62% between 45 and 74 years old, and only 14% younger than 45. Adults with children participating in church made up 13%, single/widowed/divorced/separated adults accounted for 32%, while over half were married/partnered adults (without children participating in church).

Most self-identified as introverted (45%) while only 17% see themselves as extroverted, with 38% noting they are about equal. The way people make decisions split out as follows: More thinking (29%), more feeling (26%), and about equal (45%). **My take away: it remains important to offer programming that speaks to the head AND the heart, and we need to offer activities that serve introverts even when the general culture encourages extroversion.**

A quarter of you participate in worship either exclusively online (5%), more online (7%), or about even online and in person (12%). Less than 40% attend in person exclusively. **Take away: Investing in our online infrastructure remains worthwhile even in this post-COVID time.**

*Continued on page 4*



## Sunday Worship is at 10 am

IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAM AT [WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG/LIVE](http://WWW.CONCORDUU.ORG/LIVE)

### **12/1/2026 "Getting Old Ain't for Sissies" Tom Herbert**

Life lessons from a life-long educator facing Parkinson's Disease and his own mortality. Insights from the perch of retirement. Wisdom compelled by changes in mobility, memory, hearing, vision and more. How to move from being a "helper" to receiving help and how to acknowledge that the question of "quantity of life" versus "quality of life" is no longer hypothetical. In other words, how do we age gracefully regardless of what life throws our way?

### **2/8/2026 "Lessons from Minneapolis" Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

From the empowering joy of coming together with over 1,200 faith leaders, to the details of organizing mutual aid and neighborhoods support groups; from the exuberance of marching peacefully with over 50,000 people in arctic temperatures chanting and singing, to the stunned devastation following the shooting of Alex Pretti by ICE agents - Michael will share stories and reflect on his five days in Minneapolis and the take aways for our own love-in-action work in Concord and beyond.

### **2/15/2026 "You Are Stronger than You Think" Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

Most of us do not feel strong first and then act bravely. We act - shakily. We endure - imperfectly. And then we try again. Only later do we look back and think: I didn't know I could do that. Strength is often retroactive. Narratives help us notice this. Agency gives us chances to practice it. Creativity gives us tools to express and integrate it. Together, they reveal a truth that was there all along: You are not resilient because you never fall. You are resilient because you keep finding ways to rise, reshape, reconnect, and reimagine. And over a lifetime of doing that, again and again, a quiet knowing grows: You are stronger than you think.

### **2/22/2026 "Stories of Resilience" Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger**

How are we doing? How is what we are doing supporting our sense of resilience? How do non-attachment and commitment, safety and risk-taking, music and silence help weave a web of resilience that can hold us and propel us? Come and hear personal stories of resilience by Michael and fellow congregants. Please be in touch with Michael if you have a story to share.



# Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

## 8 week course | Spring 2026

BY MARGARET FLETCHER

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) is an 8-week course for training in mindfulness in daily life. Practices of gentle yoga and meditation will be used to cultivate a sustained, awake way of being, during both formal practice as well as the ordinary moments in everyday life. Commitment to daily practice is the most important element of this course. Benefits can include reduction of stress, fatigue, anxiety and physical or psychological pain, and can include an increased sense of aliveness, joy, well-being and connection to all life on this Earth. Participants often discover new ways of coping and responding to life's difficulties. Risks can include time pressure related to engaging in home practice, being challenged and facing the unknown, and experiencing an increased awareness of difficult emotions.

**Open to:** church members, friends and extended community

**Teacher:** Margaret Fletcher; contact [margaret@margaretwpfletcher.com](mailto:margaret@margaretwpfletcher.com)

**Location:** All class meetings will happen in person in the Chapel; note: no hybrid option available.

**Required Orientation Class:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 6-8:00 pm

**Dates:** Wednesdays, March 18 – May 6; All-Day Session Saturday, April 25

**Time:** Wednesdays, 6-8:30pm; Saturday, April 25 Retreat Class, 9am-4:30pm

**Cost:** This program is freely offered by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, NH. Donations are gratefully accepted to support the work of the church.

**Pre-Registration is required:** [click here](#) (if you are reading this in print, email [office@concorduu.org](mailto:office@concorduu.org) and ask for the registration link.)

### About Margaret

Margaret Fletcher trained and is certified to teach MBSR through the Center for Mindfulness at UMass Medical School, where she also served as an MBSR Teacher and MBSR Teacher Trainer. Margaret is also the cofounder of East Coast Mindfulness, an online mindfulness center for learning, healing and mutual respect. She trained with and is certified by senior trainers at Bangor and Oxford Universities in assessing MBSR teacher competency using the MBI-TAC tool, which she uses in mentoring mindfulness teachers. Margaret is the founder of the MBSR & EcoAwareness project, bringing the Earth into the teachings of mindfulness. Margaret brings over two decades of experience in teaching meditation and mindfulness in corporate, small business, non-profit, church and community settings.

Margaret is co-author of one academic paper: [Mindfulness and sustainability at the crossroads: towards mindfulness curricula for human and planetary wellbeing and transformation](#); Sustainability Science, October 2025.



# Insights from our 2025 Ends Survey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Ministry

We have conducted Ministry Surveys in 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2025, providing valuable comparisons of how we are doing over time. I was deeply encouraged to see that for most of our ends (goals), the collective impression has been that we are doing noticeably better than before. Most questions asked for responses on a scale of 1 to 10. Here are some that stood out:

- **Pastoral Care:** an average rating of 8.0 when asked how well care and support met your expectations, compared to 7.0 in the early years of the survey.
- **Leadership:** an average rating of 8.7 when asked how effective our leaders are. 19% identified as current leaders, compared with 14% in 2018. That's 38 people who know they are leaders, and that's just the folks who responded!
- **Exchange of Wisdom:** When asked how meaningful the interactions have been when you have connected with those in life stages and with experiences different from your own, the rating moved from 7.0 to 7.8.
- **Worship:** The rating moved from 8.1 to 8.8 when asked how rich and diverse our worship offerings are. Music contributed particularly highly to your sense of being nurtured, challenged, and inspired. The ratings went from 8.0 to 8.5. Sermons came in "second" with a rating of 8.3 (compared to 7.3 or lower in previous years). And rituals moved from 6.8 to 7.6.

The sanctuary is viewed as the most important space for our religious life (9.1), with Fellowship Hall (8.2) and the Kitchen (7.2) still receiving high marks. The playground stood out at the bottom of the list at 3.9, unchanged from 2022.

A remarkable number indicated that you feel you have changed or grown as a result of your involvement at church. The average score was 8.0, almost a full point higher than the 7.1 in previous years. And there was a similar jump when asked how strongly your experience of lifelong learning has been influenced by the people and offerings at church. Average ratings went from 6.5 in 2017 to 7.8 in 2025.

*Continued on page 5*



# Insights from our 2025 Ends Survey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Church offerings have played an increasingly important role in supporting your daily practice, reflected by a shift from 6.4 to 7.3, with about half reporting to practice every day or at least multiple times a week.

**End #1** (*Our thriving congregation is living into a culture of belonging, centered in love, compassion, curiosity, courage, and joy*) is brand new, so no comparisons are available. Yet I was delighted to note an 8.4 rating when asked how well we are evolving to meet the times. I was similarly encouraged to see an average response of 8.1 to the question to what degree being a part of the congregation deepens your compassion for self and others. I assume that even those who responded with a 5 or a 6 (on a scale of 1 to 10), feel some sense of increased compassion. Yay!

Finally, I was tickled to see that so many of you experienced a real sense of joy when engaging in church activities - implied by a rating of 8.2. No surprise then, that you "feel the love" at an average rating of 8.2, whatever exactly that means. 😊

Check for Part 2, in a future issue of Parish Notes, including our self-assessment of how well we do living in harmony with the earth.

*With love and immense gratitude for the shared ministry we continue to build and explore together. Almost 16 years in the making, but who is counting...*

*Michael*





# Love-in-Action Meeting

## Sunday, Feb. 8 | 11:30am

BY BETSEY NEVILLE

*Our faith calls upon us to be radical emissaries for truth and love.*



On March 2, 2025 the first meeting was held of what was to become Love-in-Action. Michael and Barbara Keshen co-facilitated the meeting which was described as, "If you have been feeling overwhelmed by the daily barrage emanating from Washington, you are not alone. All are encouraged to attend this meeting. Our faith calls upon us to be radical emissaries for truth and love".

A lot of excitement and sharing of ideas happened during the first meeting. It was decided to name the group Love-in-Action. A committee was immediately formed by Barbara Keshen to write letters to the editor. In addition, people signed up to receive email alerts about specific pieces of state and national legislation and how to oppose or support them.

A second meeting was held November 9 to discuss what concrete and constructive actions we can take to work toward societal and political change, to advance our shared values and to support each other. We continued our discussions of state and national issues, came up with new ideas and welcomed new members.

Bev Pietlicki, Sarah Colombo and I have been meeting since then. We drafted and sent out a survey to participants, asking their priorities on social justice issues and actions. Responses to the survey in order of number of votes (several items received the same number of votes):

1. Immigration/Refugee Support and Civil Rights (tied);
2. Voting rights, Constitutional rights and Healthcare (all tied); and
3. Women's Reproductive Rights.

THE NEXT LOVE-IN-ACTION MEETING IS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 at 11:30 AM, and will be an educational session. We will have two speakers: Amy Metcalf, the Chair of the Merrimack County Dems; and Dave Luneau, a state representative since 2014. Each will speak on the state legislative process. This will include how to learn about upcoming bills, when their hearings will occur and how to oppose or support these bills. Also discussed/explained will be local resources for legislative actions and very specific ways to become involved.

These are indeed the times that try our souls. These are the times that instill fear -- testing our strength, our resolve, our spirits. So how do we find courage in the face of fear?

We all experience courage but we do so differently. Not one of us is strong all the time -- not one of us lacks the capacity for strength. Now is the time to practice courage. When we are unsure, we can act our way into knowing. One sure step we can take is to join together in community -- to find our strength with one another and courage in our shared values and our shared commitment. Together we are strong. Together we are brave.



## Love-in-Action Email List

To send and receive emails about community events and actions around social justice, join our Love-in-Action email list. Send your name and email address to [lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org). To prevent spam, this email list is for Concord UU Members and Friends who are in our church directory only.

## New Refugee Circle Forming | Info Session Saturday, Feb 7 at 11am

BY REV. MICHAEL LEUCHTENBERGER

We are starting to form a new Refugee Circle (Circle 18). Anyone interested in being a part of the circle is invited (and encouraged) to attend an info session on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 11 am.

If you are not able to attend but are still interested, please let me know.

Being a part of several refugee circles has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time here in Concord, deepening my understanding of other cultures, creating strong bonds with others in the circle, and having fun while doing something meaningful.

## NH Clergy Share What's Happening in Minnesota Saturday, Feb 7 | 1 to 3pm

Reverend Jon Hopkins (Lutheran) and Reverend Michael Leuchtenberger (Unitarian Universalist) who both were recently in Minnesota (January 21 - January 24) will share experiences of what's happening on the ground and suggestions for how NH can take action to support and protect our immigrant neighbors. This event is offered by the NH Council of Churches and will be hosted at Concordia Lutheran Church. Advance signups are requested. See the event on our Facebook page for more info and to sign up.

**WITNESSING FOR JUSTICE:**  
**NH Clergy Share**  
**What's Happening in**  
**Minnesota**

**February 7th, 1pm - 3pm**  
**Concordia Lutheran Church**  
**211 N. Main St., Concord**

Please join Rev. Jon Hopkins & Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger, both were recently in Minnesota, who will share experiences of what's happening on the ground and suggestions for how NH can take action to protect our immigrant siblings

**Childcare available - RSVP**  
Register here to attend in-person or to live stream:  
<https://forms.gle/UGWiM7eZ5pfzDFyU8>





BY REV. MICHAEL LEUCHTENBERGER



## Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace

### Saturday, February 14th, 9am to 11 am

BY DORY LECOUNT  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Our UU children have been working hard each month, learning about the different ways our UU community serves one another and the wider world. In October the children learned about the Pastoral Care Associates and decorated tiles to be shared in grief kits for congregants who experience a loss. In October they celebrated intergenerational connections when the children got to meet their Mystery Matches at the reveal party. In November children from the UU made sticky slime and learned about the importance of sharing our space with those who stay with us for Family Promise. Last month, we heard about Window Dressers, and got to draw pictures of windows to help people learn about the window inserts that can save money and energy!

This month at Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace, after a breakfast of pancakes, children will get the opportunity to **serve their own parents!** Children will return home with chopped portions of self selected vegetables, rice, and (most) of the **ingredients pre-prepped for a yummy fried rice dish** families can easily throw together after work and school. Children will learn: serving the community gets to start with serving our families!



## Blanket Fort Prayer

meet me at the altar of banned books,  
blanket fort sanctuary,  
we will dance to a chorus of children's  
laughter.  
meet me in the joy, the sorrow,  
beneath the rainbow banner,  
bring your questions, cares, concerns—  
bring the glitter in your pocket  
and the sparkle in your smile,  
bring your heavy heart,  
your favorite mug,  
your very best swear words—  
set down your very bravest face.  
meet me in the heartbeat  
between what has been and what will be,  
meet me in the flicker  
of our eternal flame  
we need not face this moment  
alone.

Blessed Be

By Helen "HP" Rivers

## Valentine's Day Childcare Special Event

### Saturday | February 14 | 10am to 2pm

BY DORY LECOUNT

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Drop your children (ages 1 to 13) off with Dory, Bayshay, and Riley for a day of fun and friendship at church while you take four hours (*yes, that says 4 hours*) to yourself! Go on a date, drink coffee in silence, go on a hike, take a shower, go grocery shopping, read a book, or go to the gym...the opportunities are plenty!

Children will work on a special service project in collaboration with Pancakes, Play, and Planting Peace, before heading either to our children's classrooms or to the Grove and trails for play before lunch. After lunch children will share a story together, before heading back outside to the playground to explore before pickup at 2pm.

A sandwich lunch and one snack will be provided. Registration is required with a suggested donation of \$10/child to cover the cost of childcare and food. To register and donate, go to [uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/Valentineschildcareevent](http://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/Valentineschildcareevent)

## Are you able to donate \$10, so a family can have 4 hours of childcare?

On Saturday, February 14th the UU will host a special childcare event for parents to have a few hours of FUN to themselves, while their children stay and play with their friends at church. Lunch will be provided, and children will be cared for by our wonderful childcare staff.

We are asking for a donation of \$10 per child to cover the cost of food and paying our staff to be there, but no family will be turned away if cost is a challenge. This is why we are asking YOU if you would be willing to donate a spot or two so that a family may have a safe space to leave their children while taking some much needed time for themselves.

If you would like to support one of our families this Valentine's day, go to [uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/Valentineschildcareevent](http://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/Valentineschildcareevent)



# 2026 Goods and Services Auction

BY LORRAINE ELLIS

**Silent auction begins on February 15  
Live auction on March 1, after the Sunday  
service**

What services can you offer? Here are a few ideas that you could offer as an individual or along with friends as a team effort:

- Home handy-person services – light construction, drywall, painting
- Furniture re-upholstery
- Driving to and pick up from Logan airport
- A stay at a vacation home or time share
- House cleaning or organizing help
- Professional lessons – cooking, baking, languages, photography, flower arranging, music, quilting, sewing
- Photography session
- Themed dinners or luncheons for 8-10 people
- Yard work
- A day of horseback riding, boating, canoeing, fishing
- Pet sitting
- Fashion consults
- Personal shopping or errand running
- Meal prep and delivery
- Made-to-order cakes, pies, breads, cinnamon rolls
- Made-to-order quilted, knitted or crocheted blanket

Donation form:  
[uconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/2026-auction-donation](http://uconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/2026-auction-donation)

# Children's Auction Sunday, March 1

While the adults are raising money for church in the auction, the Young Explorers will get a chance to play along, too! Children will bid on prizes including, books, craft supplies, toys, and games, and a special experience or two! Last year, the children raised money for new furniture for the Armenia White Room. The children will spend February deciding what to raise money for this year!





# Octagon Dinners Are Back

BY ANN WEST

Are you looking to make connections with more people in our UU church? Do you enjoy having conversations over a shared meal at the home of a friend? Are you new and looking to get to know more people at our church? Would you like to expand your network of UU friends and acquaintances? Then sign up to join the Octagon Dinners!

Dinners will take place two times: March 14 and May 16. Names of those who want to attend are chosen randomly to join in a group of eight people (including the hosts) for dinner. For the next meal, all names will go back in a hat and are again chosen randomly for the second dinner, so you can meet some more new people. The number of “octagons” depends on how many groups of eight people sign up to participate. In this way, you’ll perhaps meet new people at each dinner!

- Meals are potluck.
- Host gets to choose
  - what they will make (they don’t have to make the main dish) and will coordinate with others about contributions.
  - the time of the dinner.
- Conversation starters will be offered, but the group is free to decide how the conversation goes.
- You can sign up with a buddy; let us know if you’d like us to put you together at a dinner.
- Dates are set up for March 14 and May 16. However, once the groups are set up, that group is free to change the date of their dinner.
- Deadlines to sign up are February 28 for the March 14 dinner, May 2 for the May 16 dinner.
- Upon request, the church will try to offer two hours of childcare. Parents/guardians would drop their kids off at the church and then enjoy dinner at the host’s home. You may sign up for this on the link below, or you may reach out to Dory LeCount directly at [dory@concorduu.org](mailto:dory@concorduu.org)

Questions? Contact Betsey Neville or Ann West (look them up in Breeze or ask the office for their contact info.)

Ready to join? Sign up using the link below.  
<https://uuconcordnh.breezechms.com/form/octagon-dinner2026>

Please consider signing up to host! Your house doesn’t have to be perfect. I can’t fit more than 6 people at my table. But our group squished into my living room and ate with plates on our laps and had a great time.





# Senior Singles off to a great start in 2026!

BY MARTHA MAE EMERSON

Good food, good music, a great movie, a couple of doses of fine arts, and our newest event, The Bookish Club, made for a month with something for everyone. Some highlights:

- Movie matinee at Red River viewing Song Sung Blue - great music and acting
- Art x 2 - at Pam Tarbell's Gallery, then Kimball Jenkins Arts in Bloom exhibit, perfect respite to cold, dark weather with brightly colored depictions of nature and spectacular flower arrangements matched with paintings by NH artists
- Music on a Friday night at The Forum Pub in Penacook, a funky, friendly hang out with music, games, pub food and local beer. "So much fun" - SSG member comment.
- And The Bookish Club, an opportunity to share and discuss a wonderfully eclectic group of favorite reads.

Fun for all! Here's what's coming in February...

## SSG FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Recurring monthly events are posted on the UU calendar on the church website, as well as in Parish Notes and the UU eBulletin. SSG members also receive our SSG Bi-Weekly Update sent out on the first and third Sundays of each month highlighting changing and new activities not on the website.

### Weekly Stay Active Group, every Wednesday

For specific times and places please check our Bi-Weekly Update via email.

When: Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

February suggested Activities lean in the direction of staying cozy and comfort food, including a movie hosted at a member's house, lunch at Johnson's Dairy Bar, potluck dinner at a member's house, The Bookish Club, some outdoor fun, weather permitting.

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

When: Fri., Feb. 13, 1:30

Where: Abenaki Room, UU Church

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

When: Sun., Feb. 22, 1:30

Where: Abenaki Room, UU Church

DOOR PRIZE EVERY TIME!

If you are interested in learning more about us, please join us at one of our meetings or activities and decide if the SSG is right for you. All single UUs aged 55+ are welcome. To become a member and receive regular communications about our activities, contact Becky at the UU office ([becky@concorduu.org](mailto:becky@concorduu.org)) and request your name be added to our Google Group email list. If you are shy about jumping in both feet, ask Becky to put you in contact with one of our members to chat about our group.





## Dungeons & Dragons

SUBMITTED BY SABRINA STANWOOD

### D&D 101

**February 15th | 11:30am to 12:30pm during Second Hour**

Have you ever been interested in Dungeons and Dragons but didn't know where to start? Come join us for D&D 101. In this 1-hour session you'll get:

- An overview of what D&D is and how it's played
- Guidance for building a character
- A free character miniature of your choice to use in a future adventure.

After you attend D&D 101, you'll be added to our players group, and invited to play in a future adventure. Due to the time needed to familiarize yourself with a new character and for the Dungeon Master to prepare, we ask that new players wait until the next scheduled adventure session to play.

### D&D One Shot Adventure

**February 15th | 1 pm to 4 pm**

One Shot Adventure for those who are already in our players group. If you are in our players group and need childcare, contact [dory@concorduu.org](mailto:dory@concorduu.org) to request that. If you aren't already in our players group, attend D&D 101 so you can join in next time!

## Laughter Yoga

SUBMITTED BY BETSY KENNEDY

HO, HO, HA HA HA! Come learn how to bring more healing laughter into this stressful world. Be a part of a world peace movement, started in India in 1995. And laughter has so much serious medical research showing its health benefits. Who would have thought that laughter can ease pain, make you stronger and help you face adversity? Come find out with Betsy K (Grandma Ha Ha). No mats or experience needed. We are laughing together every first and third Tuesday at 5:00pm in the chapel. For February that means the 3rd and 17th. Very good, very good, Yay!

## Who Do I Contact For...?

We have dozens of groups, programs, and opportunities here at Concord UU. How do you know who to talk to about something that interests you? On February 1, stay for a few minutes after the service to gather in small groups around the Sanctuary with members of the Congregant Engagement Team. They will help you make connections between your individual interests and our church programs and projects.



## Printed Directories are Coming

An updated Church Directory of Members and Friends will be printed in February. To protect everyone's data, staff will hand it out to Members and Friends in person, or we can mail it to you if you're unable to get to the church. Stop into the office during office hours, Tuesday to Friday 9am to 2pm, or on Sunday mornings to pick it up. To have it mailed, send an email request to [office@concorduu.org](mailto:office@concorduu.org).

The Directory is only printed once per year, so we encourage you to use the electronic directory ("Breeze") for the most up-to-date info. Request Breeze access by emailing [breeze@concorduu.org](mailto:breeze@concorduu.org).

## The Wayside Pulpit needs additional volunteers!

SUBMITTED BY PETER BARTLETT

The Wayside Pulpit is one of the ways that our Church reaches out to the larger community. The Wayside Team is in need of volunteers to change the sermon titles and quotations. A member of the Team, each week, in rotation, researches a short quotation that reflects that week's sermon topic and installs it on the west side of the Wayside Pulpit using moveable letters. We install the sermon topic on the east side. With 3 more team members no one's turn will come up more than once a month.

The roadside bulletin board was first introduced to North American churches in 1919 by Henry Hallam Saunderson, minister of the First Parish Church (Unitarian) of Brighton, Massachusetts, and secretary of the American Unitarian Association's publicity department from 1915 to 1921. Saunderson noticed that "many bulletin boards in front of churches were ineffectual because they were either kept empty or held notices which had outlived their usefulness." Inspired by the local wayside shrines he had seen in Europe, he decided to create "wayside sermons," liberal messages that would make people stop, read, and search their conscience.

For more information, phone Peter Bartlett by looking him up in Breeze, or email [office@concorduu.org](mailto:office@concorduu.org) to get his phone number.



# Board of Trustees Highlights | January Meeting

SUBMITTED BY ANNE MEYERS, BOARD SECRETARY

- The Board completed an update to the Concord UU's Governance Policies
- We joyfully discussed the terrific response to the Annual Ends Survey—which represents a lot of asking & listening by the board & leadership!
- The Board's book discussion on Dan Hotchkiss's Governance and Ministry yielded thoughts, commentaries, and intentions.

## There's a storm outside...but worship won't be cancelled!

Because we livestream our worship service, we plan to offer worship service every Sunday, regardless of what Mother Nature sends our way. If a serious storm is expected to create dangerous road conditions on a Sunday morning, we encourage you to watch our livestream. The Sanctuary will be open for Michael to broadcast the livestream and you are welcome to join him if you feel safe going out. Support staff and volunteers are not expected to attend if they don't feel safe doing so.

**In the unlikely event we must cancel (such as in case of power outage, or if a pulpit guest can't make it) it would be announced as follows:**

1. notice on our website [www.concorduu.org](http://www.concorduu.org)
2. an email will be sent to our eBulletin mailing list
3. on the church's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ConcordUU](https://www.facebook.com/ConcordUU)
4. WMUR-TV Channel 9, cancellations are posted on a crawl at the bottom of the screen – we will be listed as “Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord”

### For events other than Sundays

Group leaders are responsible to decide whether to cancel their group, and should let their group members know. The church parking lot is regularly plowed until 10pm, but walkways may or may not be shoveled/sanded when you arrive. Shovels and sand buckets are provided at the entrances. Group leaders should email [lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org) and [becky@concorduu.org](mailto:becky@concorduu.org) if you are cancelling so office staff can help keep folks informed of your cancellation via our church calendar and Facebook. (We do not use WMUR except on Sundays.)



# Is it ok to publish your photo?

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord takes posed group photos, candid photos, and videos to illustrate the life of our church. We love sharing photos, but we want to honor your wishes about photo publication. For adults, we assume you don't mind having your photo published unless you tell us otherwise. We are more careful with the photos of children and ask for permission from their parent or guardian.

## For adults:

If you want to opt out of the use of your recognizable photo in church print and digital publications, please notify the office. The office will maintain a list of members, friends, and visitors who have opted out. We ask that you not participate in group photos since it's impossible to check every face in a large group!

## For minors under age of 18:

We will not publish recognizable photos, audio, or video of children taken during church activities without approval of their parent or guardian. All parents who register for Children and Youth Programs will be asked to accept or decline an image release.

A list of children whose images may not be published will be maintained. We will assume permission is ongoing unless a parent or guardian revokes it.

Permission is considered granted to use photos or videos of minors submitted by parents/guardians to public church forums. Example: Sunday morning diary slides, Facebook posts on our group forums, submissions for eBulletin or Parish Notes.

## Community Drum Circle | Third Sundays, 7pm to 8pm

Whether you have never touched a hand drum before, or you've been drumming for years, you are warmly invited to join our monthly Community Drum Circle on Sunday, February 15, 2026 from 7pm to 8pm. Experience the joy of finding communal rhythm, and seeing how it shifts as each member of the circle begins to add a new layer of sound. Bring a friend if you're feeling shy! Led by Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger.





## February Special Events

Feb 1 | Sun | Who Do I Contact Event @ 11:15 am  
Feb 4 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home @ 10 am on Zoom  
Exploring Membership Class #2 @ 6 pm  
Feb 7 | Sat | Snow Date for Fire & Ice: An Imbolc Family Formal @ 7 pm  
Feb 8 | Sun | Love-In-Action Gathering @ 11:30 am  
Feb 11 | Wed | Poetic Eddas Reading Group @ 6 pm (Earth Centered Spirituality)  
Feb 14 | Sat | Drop In Childcare @ 10 am  
Feb 15 | Sun | A Place For Everyone Info Session @ 11:30 am  
Feb 15 to Mar 1 | Silent Auction  
Feb 18 | Wed | UU Art Talks from Home @ 10 am on Zoom  
Feb 27 | Fri | Lumos Candlelight Concerts @ 6 pm & 8 pm - tentative  
Mar 1 | Sun | Auction & Children's Auction @ 11:30 am

## Planning the Budget for Next Year

BY LEA SMITH, DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

It is time to start planning the church's 2026-27 church budget. We need to plan for all anticipated operating expenses, capital expenses, and revenue sources. The operating and capital budgets will be drafted by Michael Leuchtenberger and Lea Smith in consultation with the Operations Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, and other church leaders. The congregation will vote whether to approve the proposed budgets at the Annual Meeting in June.

If your team/committee/group/project anticipates expenditures for your activities, please share the details with us, by March 10. An Operating Budget request is required for any group/program/staff with regular operating expenses. We are also asking you to let us know how much your program/event will bring in, if anything. For example, if you are running a fundraiser, or if you offer retreats or classes for which participants will pay a fee. Some groups may also be planning a capital project, defined as non-recurring expenses that exceed \$3,000.

Fiscal year 2026-27 runs from August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027. If you would like to make a budget request but did not receive the online forms via email, please be in touch with Lea Smith, [lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org).



# Recurring Events

## Special Worship Services

Taize at Concord UU - every 1st Sunday @ 7 pm, October through April  
UU Worship at Havenwood - every 4th Thursday @ 1 pm, September through May  
Earth Centered Spirituality Rituals - on or near solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days

## 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

## 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

## Social, Family, & Fellowship Events

Community Lunch - 2nd and 3rd Sundays @ 12:30pm, September through May  
Tuesday's Welcome Table - Tuesdays @ 6pm  
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

## 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

## Outreach Events

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

## Healing & Helping Events

American Sign Language Practice Group - Sundays at 8:30 am  
Support Group for People with Parkinson's and their Care Partners - 1st Tuesdays @ 10am  
Rock Steady Boxing for Parkinson's - Wednesdays at 10:30 am (Feb 4 - Apr 29)  
Laughter Yoga - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 5pm



## Parish Notes Deadline

March issue: February 15

Submit to [parishnotes@concorduu.org](mailto: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

Arthoen Wolf

Jim Curley

Larry Davis

## Staff

Senior Minister & Choir Director

Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

603-715-7557 (cell) [michael@concorduu.org](mailto:michael@concorduu.org)

Dir. of Membership & Administration

Lea Smith

603-916-0513 (cell) | [lea@concorduu.org](mailto:lea@concorduu.org)

Church Administrator

Becky Bosse

603-224-0291 ext 1#

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

Accompanist

Heather Maconaghy | [heather@concorduu.org](mailto:heather@concorduu.org)

Family Engagement Coordinator

Dory LeCount | [dory@concorduu.org](mailto:dory@concorduu.org)

Young Explorers Guide & Youth Group Assistant

Amir Robertson

Childcare Providers

Bayshay Bruss & Riley Carr

Custodian | Vacant

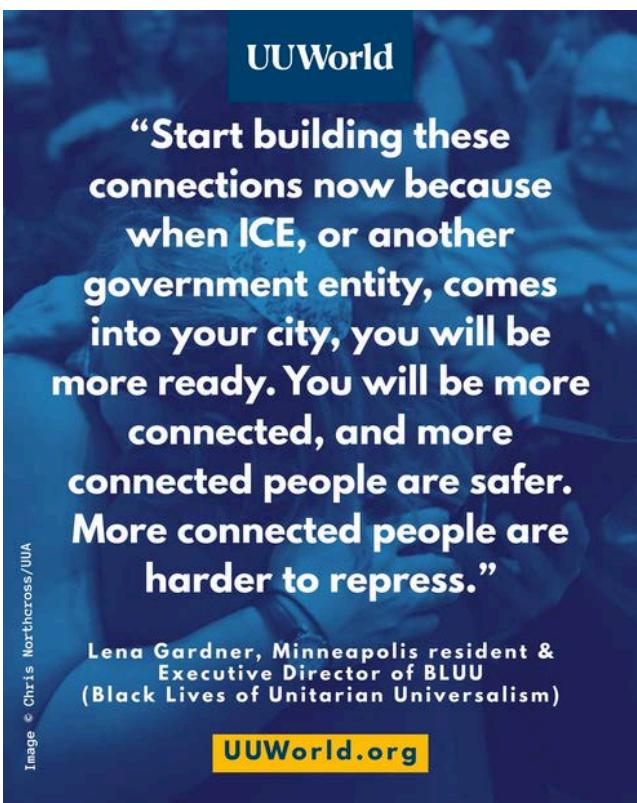
Sexton | Russell Lilley

A/V Assistant | Gavin Robichaud

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



UUWorld

**“Start building these connections now because when ICE, or another government entity, comes into your city, you will be more ready. You will be more connected, and more connected people are safer. More connected people are harder to repress.”**

Image © Chris Northcross/UUA  
Lena Gardner, Minneapolis resident & Executive Director of BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism)

[UUWorld.org](http://UUWorld.org)